

# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

New mercies, new blessings,  
    new lights on thy way;  
New courage, new hope,  
    and new strength for each day;  
New notes of thanksgiving,  
    new chords of delight,  
New praise in the morning,  
    new songs in the night;  
New wine in thy chalice,  
    new altars to raise;  
New fruits for thy Master,  
    new garments of praise;  
New gifts from His treasures,  
    new smiles from His face;  
New streams from the fountain  
    of infinite grace;  
New stars for thy crown,  
    and new tokens of love;  
New gleams of the glory  
    that waits thee above;  
New light of His countenance  
    full and unpriced;--  
All this be the joy  
    of thy new life in Christ.

Frances Ridley Havergal

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## A NEW YEAR--A.D.2010

*"And now, my soul, another year Of thy short life is past;  
I can not long continue here, And this may be my last."*

These words from Hymn 334, written by Simon Browne in 1720, are even current Christian sentiments.

What can we expect in 2010? Will Jesus return? Will we live the whole year? How much time *do* we have? We know who holds the future, but our minds still wonder and question.

Resolutions are often made at New Years Day. It is good to decide to do better in our actions as well as our words and thoughts. But resolutions are notorious for being soon broken. Think about Ecclesiastes 5:15: "Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay."

Jephthah (Judges 11) wanted God to give him victory over the Ammonites, and he rashly vowed if he would be victorious ". . . that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering." His only child, his daughter, came out to meet him "with timbrels and with dances." Jephthah mourned and rent his clothes, but both he and his daughter knew that he must honor his vow. The Word says he "did with her according to his vow which he had vowed."

You might think, "My resolutions are not really vows." But still we should take them seriously. Are they promises? Or just hopes--*wishful thinking*? Aren't they things we would like to accomplish? If they are good, then we should keep them. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17)



We do not order the events of 2010. Though God is in complete control, our attitudes and prayers do have effect. God told Cain, "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door."

Azariah the prophet told King Asa, "Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you."

That God holds us responsible doesn't mean we can of our own selves determine our blessings. Our two quotations are from the Old Testament. God doesn't change, but under the New Covenant He offers us new birth in Christ, His grace, and His promise to never leave us or forsake us. On the other hand, "The way of the transgressor is hard."

There is no room in 2010 for Christians to be discouraged. Satan will trouble us, but God watches over His children like a shepherd guards his sheep. No terrorist can function; no enemy can win without God's allowing it. As for temptation in 2010, God sets a boundary and tells the tempter "This far, but no farther."

Accidents, reverses, calamities, sickness may come, but God has decreed in all these that His people will come through purer and unharmed. Jesus assured His disciples as He sent them out, "Freely ye have received, freely give. . . Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. . . but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. . ."

To all our readers and friends: let us accept the challenge to spend more time in God's Word, in prayer for our people and nation, in praise of His greatness, and be a blessing to others. Someone has said, "We testify for Christ all the time and sometimes we use words." Happy New Year.

**"O to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer!" --L.C.**

*The following article was an editorial in Alternative in 1977. We have left the dates as published. Our issues and joys are much the same today. -L.C.*

### THE BEST OF TIMES--THE WORST OF TIMES

As I look back over 1976 in an effort to make some evaluation, the opening lines of Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities* keep going through my mind for some reason--"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, . . . it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." The observation, on the surface a seemingly impossible contradiction, is in reality a fair description of our own age, I think.

One need not be a pessimist to observe that crime, sexual promiscuity, dishonesty and general godlessness have reached intolerable levels, making our society a "winter of despair." But from another perspective, one which I seem to have little difficulty overlooking, there are those events which contrive to make our times the "spring of hope." For at least this one time in 1977, I lift my voice in thanksgiving and appreciation to God Almighty for "the best of times," for the "season of light," for the "spring of hope."

My sphere of acquaintances is very limited, yet with little difficulty I can think of numerous events which testify eloquently to the fact that hope is not dead, and the light has not been extinguished.

A young couple with one adopted son makes plans to adopt another child. They work extra hard and adjust their finances to earn money to pay the \$2,500 of expenses.

A successful surgeon leaves his lucrative practice and moves to Africa to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of a war torn nation.

A large group of teenagers gathers to celebrate the arrival of the new year. There is no drunkenness, no pill-popping, no wild party; they spend twelve hours in prayer and Bible reading.

Thousands of concerned married couples attend marriage enrichment seminars because they are determined not only to make their marriage work, but to make their marriage a blessing to themselves, their children, and those who know them.

A successful agronomist goes to a developing nation to lend a hand. He is not sent by the government, or with funds from some foundation. He is maintained by his immediate family, all middle class working people.

A business man makes several hundred thousand dollars profit, but last year, like many years before, he and his wife have lived on a modest salary, in a typical urban residential area. They have given their money to the church, education, missions, and other benevolent causes, and when they have given their money to build an orphan's home, he is likely to be found mixing the cement, and she preparing lunches for the laborers.

Hundreds of young men and women interrupt their college training and postpone their careers in order to give three or four years of their lives to mission activities.

I have no doubt but that these selfless actions could be multiplied thousands of times over, not only in our own nation, but around the world.

Is it the best of times, or the worst of times? Does it not really depend more upon our attitude toward the events that make up our times than upon the events themselves? What will 1977 be? If I can maintain my new year's resolution, I fully intend for it to be the "best of times" for me, regardless of what events may transpire. May it be a "spring of hope" and a "season of light" for each one of us.

Keith Robinson in *Alternative 1977*  
Dallas, Texas



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man." (James 1:13)

This verse and the verses that follow it are very enlightening as we study this next phrase of our Lord's Prayer. Jesus does not lead us into temptation; He makes "a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Cor. 10:13) When we are tempted, we are drawn away of our own lust. (James 1:14) It is hard to go through these valleys. Many times we come out feeling like we lost. Possibly we did. Why? Ask that question to the One who has been victorious through it; He knows why. (Heb. 4:15) God knows where we are weakest, and He will allow us to be tempted right there so we will call upon Him for the way to escape. Even if you do escape, turn around and try to figure out why you were tempted like that. Christ wants to be your strength in that area of weakness.

When I see myself being tempted over and over in the same area of my life, that is not victory. Somewhere I must have a selfish stronghold that allows me to lust for such things; and when I have such a stronghold in my life, I am prone to failure instead of victory. Here again, Jesus knows where this stronghold is, and He will take it captive if I yield it to Him.

It is in us to try to stand against temptation with sheer will-power: "I will not allow myself to. . ." I am uncomfortable with that. The first two words of this phrase are "Lead us." We may find the foe suppressed for a while by will-power, but temptation of any kind can be stamped out when we can cry in true brokenness, "Our Father which art in heaven, deliver us from evil!"



When we are drawn away of our own lusts and enticed, we are following deception. Satan, as the father of deception, has planted a seed in our lives that causes us to believe something other than the truth. This seed is lust, but it is also deception. When lust conceives, we sin. God will deliver us from this vicious cycle that we are very familiar with. He offers us a peace and calm that truly leaves us with the feeling of being delivered. Deliverance is victory. As we call upon Him, we will live a life that continues to conquer the lusts that would draw us away. To resist the devil, we must draw nigh to God.

(Reprinted from January, 2006)

Peter Cover, Tuolumne, California

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## PRIDE

*Proverbs 16:5a: "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord."*

*Proverbs 16:18: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."*

*Proverbs 21:4: "An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin."*

*Proverbs 11:2: "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom."*

*Proverbs 13:10: "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom."*

*Proverbs 16:5: "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished."*

God hates pride. Pride is the root of all sin. It is to focus and center on oneself. Pride is difficult to lay down, but it is something we must lay down, give up, and yield to the Lord. God does not remove self or pride by some spiritual surgery;

we must yield completely to the Lord to be saved from ourselves and our fallen nature.

Self is the whole evil of our fallen nature, and in our fallen state is pride. It takes a great struggle for eternal life; the struggle lies in the strife between pride and humility. The humility of Christ is our perfect example. Look not at pride only as becoming temperate, for one is life and the other death; one is heaven and the other hell.

So many of you have pride within you. You have the fallen angel alive in you. If you could see what stirring pride does to your soul, you would beg every one you meet to tear the viper from you.

Seek the humility of the beloved Lamb of God within you. If you could see what sweet, divine, gentle, transforming power there is in humility, you would know it expels the poisons of your nature and makes room for the sweet Spirit of God in you. Die to self and come out from under its power. It can be done by active resistance and dying to self.

The pride that Satan brought from hell entered into humankind, working daily with mighty power in selfishness, vain ambitions, and jealousy. Broken hearts and embittered and unhappy lives are from cursed pride. Pride has its roots in spiritual powers, the powers of darkness.

The humility of heaven brought the beloved Lamb of God to cast out Satan and his pride. James 4:6 tells us that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Develop humility. Humility is the opposite of pride and is gentle, courteous, kind, moderate; not harsh or severe in words or attitudes; a gentle spirit. A gentle spirit is one of the best remedies to control pride; it is impossible to live a true pattern of gentleness and godliness and still persist in pride. Proverbs 8:13: "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and froward mouth, do I hate." Proud, haughty, arrogant, loud,

pompous, showy, high-minded, conceited, desiring vain glory--God hates this spirit.

Pride can easily set off our emotions: anger, defeat, anxiety, guilt, depression, and self-importance.

Pride can be linked to one's self-respect: we can be proud of our abilities and our job being well done, and then we can take it to extremes. Inordinate means immoderate, excessive. Pride can be defined as preoccupation with one's dignity and the importance of one's reputation. Paul says pride can be the very foundation of sin and defiance to God. Pride can be struggles with one's self-image, having feelings of inferiority and insecurity. Pride by nature is competitive--wanting to match, to outdo. Comparison leads to judgment, and judgment can lead to feelings of superiority or defeat. To act superior and not face up to our faults is pride.

#### PRIDE

1. A tendency to criticize and find fault with others.
2. A reluctance to accept criticism.
3. Degrading systems of others.
4. Speaking unkindly of others and putting them down.
5. Taking pleasure in the failures of others.
6. Impatience with the shortcomings of others.
7. Brooding over unpleasant circumstances.
8. Getting upset, fretting, and talking about it to others when someone fails.
9. Holding grudges and keeping score.
10. Questioning God's wisdom.
11. Emphatically and forcefully expressing our opinions in speech and actions.
12. Overly concerned about others perception of us.
13. Unconcerned about others perception of us.
14. Desiring to be in control.
15. Refusal to admit weaknesses.

16. Importance placed on dress, material possession, even our house.

17. Preoccupation with self and a tendency to be demanding.

The humility of the Lamb of God, meekness, patience, gentleness, and godliness in words and attitudes; a gentle spirit, the desire for these virtues is to desire to give up yourself, all your pride, wholly to God. This is your highest act of faith for the beloved Lamb of God and His divine love.

In His love, Nancy Beidler,  
Richland, Pennsylvania

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### TONGUE TROUBLE

I told it to my sister and she told it to my friend,  
And thus began a story that perhaps will never end.

I said it in my innocence; I didn't know 'twas false,  
But now I fear my ignorance may be another's cross.

"I didn't know" --how frequently we hear the statement made!  
And yet the things we "didn't know" cut heartstrings like a blade.

Where do these stories come from when we cannot find a source?

These tales that lead to shipwreck and where love once dwelled,  
divorce?

Who starts the awful talk about the preacher's business life,  
Or gossips that the teacher doesn't love his gentle wife?

Who speculates the reason that the neighbor's hired man left?  
Or just who caused the accident that left a wife bereft?



How many, many folks like me repeat what they are told?  
And never stop to think how it may make some soul grow cold.

Why don't we seek the origin of stories that we hear?  
Or, at least, don't make them worse than what they first appear?

I need to guard my motives for the Lord is not deceived;  
I may not be as innocent as I at first believed.

For God will hold accountable the tongues that go astray;  
"I didn't know" won't clear us when we reach the judgment day.

Selected by a brother

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*Years ago when Uncle Ernest Wagner was still alive but speechless and mostly helpless from a stroke, we published many of his meditations. His one hand was useful and he wrote a lot, even during the night. We have many of his short writings that we never published. We may use more under this title:*

## UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS

### WORLD POWER OR BABYLON

If I understand right, the great image God showed Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2) was an image of all the great world powers, beginning with Babylon as the head; then the Medes and Persians; then Greece; then Rome, and on down to our time in the toes. Finally it will all crumble to dust and blow away when Christ comes to set up His Kingdom.

We are living in the time of the ten toes, and our nation is one of the powers. World trade is a great controversy among nations today which is spoken of in The Revelation, and I believe the riches spoken of fits our nation well.

### OUR BODIES

Psalm 139:14: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made, marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well."

Our bodies were created with a healing system that is very sensitive to injuries. As we get older, the skin seems to get thinner and reveals to us the healing process on bruises or cuts. Small injuries may cause much more discoloration than we noticed when younger, revealing the healing process of our blood and nerve system.

### FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY

These are the three things we need to live a successful Christian life. The Apostle Paul tells us though we have an abundant portion of faith and hope, it amounts to nothing if we don't know how to use it with charity. We may make many rules to deny the lusts of the flesh, even to the extent of giving our bodies to burn, but all is a vain show without Charity. Paul tells us the things Charity will cause us to do in I Cor. 13.

Ernest Wagner

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### BIRTHS

✓ Martin - A daughter, Kellyn Paige, born October 10 to Michael and Amy Martin of New Paris, Indiana.

✓ Royer - A daughter, Jenna Elizabeth, born December 15 to Merrill and Martha Royer of Wakarusa, Indiana.

✓ Savage - A daughter, Kirsten Joelle, born December 19 to Ian and Charlesta Savage of Bradford, Ohio.

✓ Royer - A son, Drew Brenton, born December 28 to Brenton and Stella Royer of Wakarusa, Indiana.

FOR YOUTH  
Twenty-Four Hours a Day

Christopher Morley once said that Time is like Monoxide gas. It is noiseless, colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Often people do not become aware of Time and Monoxide gas until it is too late.

There is something unthinkable about time. It is impossible for us to think of something that never started, and will never cease to be. It is outside of our normal experiences. Yet, there are some things we can do about time.

God gives to each of us twenty-four hours a day. He gives to the saint and the sinner the same. Mr. Edison had just twenty-four hours a day. The hobo, going everywhere and getting nowhere, has the same amount of time.

Usually, we have time enough to do the things we really want to do. The person who has nothing especially to do always gets it done! The time killer is driving coffin nails into his chances of success.

*From John Holland's Scrap Book 1944*

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

I have so many caring friends;  
I cherish letters each one sends.  
All the encouragement and prayers  
Show me that each one really cares.

My friends are such a special gift;  
They're always there to give a lift,  
And even if it's just a smile,  
It gives hope and cheer for the mile.

I want to say thank you to you all  
Who to the Lord for me did call,  
That God would always be my guide,  
And I would stand close to His side.

When the evening upon me falls,  
Then down on my knees to God I call  
That your faith would always be strong,  
And you'd have hope when you've lost your song.

I pray that God would give you peace,  
That your praise to Him will not cease,  
And that you'll be in arms of love  
When called to leave and go above.

Sharon Pletcher

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### CHILDREN'S PAGE

#### Bruce Makes Supper

"Bruce," called Mother from the bedroom. "Come here, dear."

Bruce jumped up from the living room floor where he was playing with his toy truck.

"What, Mother?" he asked. He came up to her bed. He was getting used to seeing Mother in bed in the afternoons. She was not feeling well.

"Would you like to get supper tonight?" asked Mother.

"Get supper?" Bruce stared at her. He had never gotten supper in all his eight years.

"Yes, you can do it." said Mother. "I'll tell you how."

"But--but I never got supper before."



Mother smiled. "That doesn't matter. If I tell you just what to do, don't you think you can get some supper on the table for Father and Danny and Lois and you?"

"I do not want any supper tonight, Bruce. I wish I could get supper for my family, but I am not feeling well enough. You will be Mother's helper tonight, won't you?" She drew her little boy close to her.

"I'll try, Mother," Bruce said slowly. He gave Mother a hug.

"Fine," smiled Mother. "I am sure you will get along all right. First, take the little yellow pan and fill it half full of potatoes. Scrub them with the brush until they are clean. Then I'll tell you what to do next."

"I want to help, too," cried Lois who had been listening from the bedroom doorway.

"All right, dear. You go along to the basement with Bruce when he goes for potatoes and bring up a jar of green beans."

When Bruce returned with the potatoes, Lois was hugging a jar of green beans. Bruce began washing the potatoes at the kitchen sink.

"The scrub brush is under the sink, Bruce." Mother called.

When the potatoes were clean, Bruce carried the pan to Mother.

"They look fine. Now put a cup of water on them and put a lid on the kettle." Mother instructed him. "Then set the pan on one on the front burners of the stove and turn it to 'High'."

Bruce did as Mother had told him to do. Then he called from the kitchen, "Shall I put the beans into the pan, Mother?"

"Yes," she answered, "but don't put them on the stove yet. The potatoes must cook awhile first."

With Lois's help, Bruce set the table. He cut some cheese and bread, put out the cookies, and opened some peaches.

When Father came home, supper was on the table. "Father," cried Bruce excitedly as soon as he came in the door, "Lois and I got supper tonight!"

"You did?" asked Father, surprised. "Is Mother worse?"

"She said she didn't want any supper tonight." said Bruce.

"That is too bad," said Father. "But I am glad you could get supper for her. It looks good, too,"

Bruce smiled. He had not known he could do it. But it had not been so hard after all. "Jesus helped us," he told Father happily.

By Rachel Showalter

in *Wee Lambs* Sept 12, 1971

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## O HOLY SAVIOUR

O Holy Saviour, Friend unseen,  
Since on Thine arm Thou bidd'st me lean,  
Help me, throughout life's changing scene,  
By faith to cling to Thee.

Blest with communion so divine,  
Take what Thou wilt, shall I repine,  
When, as the branch is to the vine,  
My soul may cling to Thee.

What though the world deceitful prove,  
And earthly friends and hopes remove;  
With patient, uncomplaining love,  
Still would I cling to Thee.

Though oft I seem to tread alone  
Life's dreary waste, with thorns o'ergrown,  
Thy voice of love, in gentlest tone,  
Still whispers, "Cling to Me!"

Though faith and hope may long be tried,  
I ask not, need not, aught beside;  
So safe, so calm, so satisfied,  
The soul that clings to Thee!

--Charlotte Elliott, 1886 (1789-1871)

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## DISASTERS

We are sad for the disaster in Haiti and the fear it generated. Haiti suffered an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 with several after shocks and a heavy one of 6.1. The devastation was awesome to buildings constructed with poor material and no building codes. 200,000 are estimated dead and 250,000 injured. Nearly 2 million are homeless.

Help is rushing in from all sides. Evidently the Haitian government can not or will not help much. Poor government is at least part of Haiti's problems even before the earthquakes. Some think the repeated disasters may be punishment from God for a country dedicated to Satan. We are not qualified to say this, and to claim it brings only scorn from unbelievers. We are sure there are numerous people of God in Haiti since many churches have Christian missions there.

At the end time, according to Jesus' prophecy, there will be disasters: besides wars and conflicts between kingdoms "there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places." (Matt. 24:7b) "All these are the beginning of sorrows." (verse 8) If Haiti's disaster is fulfillment of these words of Jesus, there is more to come!

If poor government brings judgment from God, what will come to *our* country where we have good government but with unbelief and gross disobedience to God's plain words? The newspapers are full of detailed proof of this statement.

Going even farther, how about us who claim to be people of God-- the sacred body of Jesus Christ? How it becomes us--constrains us--to godly living, yielding our bodies as instruments of righteousness unto holiness.



In Luke 12:31-48 Jesus tells of the reward to faithful servants and the punishment of *"that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will."* In verse 48 our Saviour warned, *"But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes."* (perhaps like many of the Haitians) *"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."* (Sounds like us?)

Jesus spoke this in parable form to His people of Israel. But I believe it reveals a principle of God's working. *"For our God is a consuming fire."* (Hebrews 12:29) God is also just. We have been given much as a nation, as a church of Christ, and as individuals. God has been good to us which means we have more responsibility than the Haitians. God has been good to the people of Haiti too. He offers salvation to all men. But we surely know we have been given more material blessings than they and more than almost any other people on earth. Talk about responsibility and accountability!

The good news is that God is for us, and who can be against us? Under siege by the king of Assyria, King Hezekiah told his people: *"Be strong and courageous. . . there be more with us than with him: with him is the arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles."*

Battles? Are we really in war? Is it the enemy that plants evil thoughts, hard words, wrong deeds? We can talk about the help available, but are we using it? Do we have to pick up the magazine in the dentist's office--one we would not subscribe to at home? Do we hesitate to give words of encouragement that we should? Do you mothers become depressed when the children "get on your nerves"? Are we tempted to do a fast, substandard job on a building or a report or teaching a lesson? Do we take the easy way in disciplining our children when we know patient, consistent teaching is what they need? Do we

sometimes respond with bitter words when our companion criticizes--we think unfairly? Are we in a battle? Yes, and we know who will win. *"Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."*

Disasters may come on nations and on all the world, but the ultimate disaster is for us as individuals to lose out on the deliverance and reward God has promised. --L.C.

*Oh my precious brother,  
When the world's on fire,  
You'll need my Jesus  
To be your Saviour.* --Elton Roth

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### THE HEROD SYNDROME

"For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. (Mark 6:20)

Herod deeply respected and feared John. Herod observed and heard John, even heard him gladly. Herod knew John was a man of integrity, just and holy. John held nothing back in communicating with Herod, telling him his marriage to Herodius was immoral and needed to be dealt with immediately. But John's warning failed to motivate Herod to deal with his sin. Instead, Herod responded to John's message in a surprising way.

I don't think John told Herod something he didn't already know. Herod was familiar with God's law and knew his marriage to Herodius was an adulterous one. What amazes me is that Herod wanted anything to do with John. Yet here is Herod, observing and hearing a man gladly who has just insulted his wife, condemned his marriage, and accused him of breaking God's law. At a casual glance, I am tempted to

classify Herod as a man who is mentally unstable and look no further into his strange man's life. But a careful reading of this verse reveals a man that begins to look uncomfortably familiar, and God's Word becomes a mirror of my life, not just a window into Herod's.

Mark tells us that when Herod listened to John, he "did many things." Unfortunately, those things did not include the one thing God (speaking through John) wanted him to do--take care of his immoral relationship with his brother's wife. No one I know is guilty of Herod's sin. But what about Herod's attitude and actions? When God brings a sin to our attention, do we respond with repentance, confession, and a turning away from it? Or do we ignore the prompting of the Holy Spirit and "do many things" to try to compensate for failing to do what God really wants us to?

Even when we do good and admirable things, God will not give His peace to us if we ignore the sin in our life that God really wants us to take care of. Like the Pharisees, we can make the outside of the cup and platter clean and leave the inside full of corruption (Matt. 23:25). Jesus' analogy is plain, especially when we think of His teachings about anger, lust, revenge, and pride. Sin starts in the heart, often long before others are able to detect anything amiss. Involving ourselves in more religious activities, even good activities, will not profit us if we allow sins such as anger, lust, revenge, bitterness, or pride in our hearts.

If you or I have sin in our life that we cannot get victory over, there is an answer. The answer is to confess our sins and allow God to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness by the blood of Christ (I John 1:9). I believe true confession involves more than words. True confession is marked by being broken before God, completely forsaking our sin, and allowing the Holy Spirit to control our lives according to God's Word. James encourages us to include other believers in this process.



He tells us to "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye many be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). The freedom and peace that attends such confession and healing is wonderful and cannot be expressed in words (Phil 4:7).

Do you have the Herod syndrome? Is there something wrong in your life that God keeps convicting you of? Yet you push it aside, put it off, and try to mask the guilt by doing anything and everything but what God wants you to. That's no way to live, friend. Jesus didn't die on a cross and rise again so that you could live a life motivated by guilt and fear. If this sounds like you, perhaps it's time to stop feeding the swine and return to your Father's house (Luke 15:11-32). Take it from someone who's been there. God loves you and is waiting with open arms if only you will come to Him in repentance and true confession.

Eddie Wagner,  
Modesto, California

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### SERMON NOTES

#### **Opening: An Object of Worship**

*"Ye poor, wandering wretches, come hear His sweet voice,  
Come make of Him ever your most blessed choice. . ."*

If we are not poor, wandering wretches, it is because we know Christ and have chosen to sit at His feet and receive instruction.

Christ is our object of worship. He is something to admire and treasure. He promises life and blessing. Wherever God is, is a place of worship. His resurrection is why we worship Him. Think of His loaded hands and all He has to offer us. Have we blocked it out of our minds by something else that has become our object of worship? Let us sit at the feet of Christ and receive His instruction.



**Main Message: Resolution**

God has preserved us this far through life. He is long suffering and doesn't want any to be lost. God would have us make resolves and carry through. As we enter a new year, it's good to think that God knows our hearts. He always has.

The steward in Luke 16:4 said, "I am resolved what to do. . ." He had a problem. He said, "I am in trouble and I am going to find a way out." He has come to the realization of what he needs to do. The hymn (#212) says, ". . .and make our last resolve." An important reminder as we think about the future.

Esther and her people were in trouble. Many times we don't realize we need to make a change until we are in trouble. God overruled in the story of Esther. We tend to forget that God is in control and over all. When we are in trouble, "a thousand thoughts resolve. . ." We make excuse and look for the easy way out. Esther gave up her all and the results were good. The truth is the same today. If we cast our all on the Lord, the result is good. How good are the results of our resolves if the commitment is not there?

Our eternal view will govern our actions, guide our resolves, and dictate the way we live. We should use our natural possessions to prepare for eternity. Give to those in need. Provide for our own. We are stewards of God's good things. Does He see us wasting His goods? We could all make resolves in this area. Money is one of the least things, but God has called us to be faithful in this. Little things matter.

As we think about our resolutions, let us examine our hearts, our families, our church. . . Are there problems in these areas? think not that we will escape. Some day we will stand before God who knows our hearts. We won't just happen to fall into the Kingdom of God. We are prone to trouble. What about the things we esteem the least? Are we willing to change? If we don't deny ourselves, we are liable to just stay in

the same rut. Are we willing to get help? Ask God for help. It takes effort to change.

So if we've been careless with our lives, and we all fail, today is the day of salvation. Some day we will be on trial. God would bring us to judgment today. The time is now to resolve and to press into the Kingdom. When we come to that end, there will be no excuses. We might as well face the fact. We have the truth. If you are willing to live by the truth, you'll be blessed. If you're not willing, there's no hope. Thank God there's a way made possible.

**Testimonies:** We've been called to commitment. May we have a deep commitment that will enable us to make proper changes. Be faithful in small things and the big things will take care of themselves. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect." Our last resolve should be to serve God.

**Closing:** "Hear, oh heavens, for the Lord hath spoken." (Isaiah 1:2) We've heard a message that we ought to consider. We've heard practical applications for tomorrow. Will we make resolutions according to truth? True resolves bring results. As we consider these things, remember God is Sovereign. This will establish our hearts and give us a proper mindset.

*Now I resolve with all my heart,*

*With all my powers to serve the Lord. . .*

Samuel & Rosanna Royer, Nappanee, Indiana

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### THE LORD'S PRAYER (concluded)

*For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.*

It is very fitting to start and end our prayers in worship to our Father in heaven. In the first of our Lord's prayer, we hallow our Father's name. As we approach His throne, we are bound to hold Him in great reverence. As we end this prayer (and I believe any prayer), we once again hold Him in great

reverence. We acknowledge His place in the big picture--Supreme!

This phrase is also a good follow up to ". . . deliver us from evil." There is a kingdom of darkness; its power is deceit and its glory is its darkness. This is the evil we are delivered from. What a contrast when we are delivered--transformed, renewed, given new life! When we see Jesus, we can't help but proclaim His wonderful kingdom. It is by His power we are delivered from evil and it is for His glory. In our way of speaking we could use "because" at the beginning of this phrase, and it would mean the same thing. Even though we are involved with the conflict that rages around and in us, it's not really about us. It is about God, for God, and for His kingdom.

"God wins in the end." This phrase comes to my mind at the close of this prayer. He is worthy to be praised. God Jehovah is King. His throne is forever and ever. (Heb. 1:8) He rules His kingdom with righteousness. His kingdom is coming and His will will be done. With His power He has delivered us from evil. With His almighty hand He has supplied our daily bread. As a merciful King, He has forgiven our debts. He has washed us clean with the sacrifice of His own blood. When He comes to set up His Kingdom here, we will be eyewitnesses of His glory. When we see Jesus for who He truly is and we accept what he has so willingly done, our hearts almost burst with adoration for Him and to Him. We leap for joy and fall on our knees at the same time. Our God reigns forever!

Forever! Have you ever thought about that word? Let your mind wonder on it for awhile. It is beyond human wisdom or capacity. Now think on that word in light of our God reigning. What joy to anticipate being there! That again is indescribable, but it's real and it's coming. Are you ready for *forever*? Amen. (So be it.)

(Reprinted from February, 2006)

Peter Cover, Tuolumne, California



## UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS

## Slow to Believe

Luke 24:25: "Then he said unto them; O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken."

What would the Lord say to us today? We have the words of the prophets in a book that we may study as much as we desire. Also, the account of Jesus' first coming and His warning that He will come at a time we think not, as in the parable of the ten virgins; so let us get things ready before we sleep.

## Joyful Trials

James 1:1-2: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations, knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh patience. . ."

This admonition is contrary to our human nature, as when we read the book of Job, our human nature feels God was wrong to call Satan's attention to Job. But He wanted to bestow a great blessing on Job, and keep the record to be a help to all generations since that time. Also, Jesus told Peter He was going to let Satan sift him as wheat, to make Peter more able to help his brethren in their trials. So we say, "Not my will, but Thine be done."

## Inspiration

II Timothy 3:16: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Our brains are a marvelous creation capable of receiving inspiration direct from God through the Spirit. The Bible is a large book of records of how men responded to the Spirit's urging. These are all necessary for us to study to know how we should solve our problems in life to obtain salvation.

Ernest Wagner



## PRAYER

When the trials of life make you weary,  
And your troubles seem too much to bear,  
There's a wonderful solace and comfort  
In the silent communion of prayer.

When you've searched for the sun without ceasing,  
And the showers continue to fall,  
There's a heavenly lift in this wonderful gift  
That God has extended to all.

From the miracle of prayer there comes power  
That will minimize all of your care,  
And you'll gather new hope when you're able to cope  
With the troubles that once brought despair.

So lift up your heart to the heavens;  
There's a loving and kind Father there  
Who offers release and comfort and peace  
In the silent communion of prayer.

Author unknown

Selected by Melvin and Marilyn Coning  
From Susie Coning's things

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## HUMILITY

In Pilgrim's Progress, John Bunyan describes the shepherd boy in the valley of Humiliation:

Now, as they were going along and talking, they espied a boy feeding his father's sheep. The boy was in very mean clothes, but of a fresh and well-favoured countenance; and as he sat by himself he sang. Hark! said Mr. Great-heart, to what the shepherd's boy saith. So they hearkened, and he said--

He that is down, needs fear no fall;  
He that is low, no pride;  
He that is humble ever shall  
Have God to be his guide.

I am content with what I have,  
Little be it or much;  
And, Lord, contentment still I crave,  
Because Thou savest such.

Fullness to such a burden is  
That go on pilgrimage:  
Here little, and hereafter bliss,  
Is best from age to age.

Then said the guide, "Do you hear him? I will dare to say,  
this boy lives a merrier life, and wears more of the herb called  
*heart's ease* in his bosom, than he that is clad in silk and velvet."

-----

### THE DIFFERENCE

I got up early one morning  
And rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,  
And heavier came each task.  
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.  
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
But the day toiled on, gray and bleak;  
I wondered why God didn't show me.  
He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence;  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning,  
And paused before entering the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I had to take time to pray.  
Selected

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## BIRTH

✓ Rhoades - A daughter, Josephine Janelle, born January 18 to  
Keith and Marlene Rhoades of Greenville, Ohio.

-----

## ADDRESS CHANGES

✓ Tyler Fay 1608 Dover Ave.  
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(937) 974-2958

✓ Ian Savage 4254 Richmond-Palestine Rd.  
New Madison, OH 45346  
(937) 548-0045

## FOR YOUTH

## "KEEP IT UP!"

I glanced up from my work to accept the chart the graying Arab doctor held out to me, then proceeded to enter his orders into the computer. Suddenly I realized he had returned and stood patiently waiting. As I looked up questioningly, he said humbly, "I try not to be nosy. . ." then halted.

"That's okay," I replied, "What is it?"

He hesitated briefly, then said in the same deferential tone, "Well, I see the cap you wear on your head. Are you Amish?"

"Actually, I'm Old Brethren," I smiled. He looked puzzled. "Are you familiar with German Baptist people?" I asked.

"Oh, yes, I am."

"Our church is similar."

"I see. Well, I see the cap on your head, and I see the way you are dressed, and I just want to say to you: You have something very beautiful there! It is very becoming on you. Please keep it up! It is good!"

"Thank you, Doctor!"

And then he was gone.

I went on with my work feeling blessed and encouraged. His words refresh my determination: With God's help, I want to be faithful!

Susanna Tate, Wakarusa, Indiana

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## THE NEW YEAR

Two thousand nine is going away,  
It won't come back some other day;  
We shouldn't have wasted precious time,  
Or spent our last most useful dime;



We could have done a whole lot more  
'Stead 'a starin' blankly at the floor;  
But now we look at something new,  
Somethin' that's gonna zip right through.

So this New Year let's try again  
And gladly welcome two thousand ten!

Heidi Moser  
Nappanee, Indiana

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### CHILDREN'S PAGE

#### The Best Library in the World

It was Bob's birthday. Early that morning the postman stopped at his door and left a parcel with his name written on it. He could scarcely wait until the string was undone to discover what it contained.

"It feels like a book," said he, as he removed the outer wrapper. "And it's from Grandmother--here is a card with her name on it." Off came the tissue paper and ribbon. "Oh, look!" he exclaimed. "It's a Bible--a zipper Bible!"

Slipping his finger through the ring, he opened the gold zipper that held the edges together.

"Now," said his father, "you have the best library in the world."

"Library?" repeated Bob questioningly. "It takes a lot of books to make a library."

"That is why the Bible *is* a library," smiled his father. "It has many books in one--written by different authors, at different times, and in different places."

Did you know that people in times past have given a whole load of hay for permission to read the Bible for an hour?

Did you know that for many centuries all Bibles had to be written by hand? People gave their whole lives to this work. One beautiful handwritten copy sold for \$10,000 during the war of 1914-18, and the money was used to help the starving people of Poland.

Did you know that at one time in England Bibles were chained to the reading desks in churches, and people had to go there whenever they wanted to read the Scriptures? Today everyone can own a Bible. A copy may be bought for \$1.00. Have you a Bible? If not, would you like to save your money and buy one?

**A Question to Think About:**

*Why is it that people have been willing to pay so much for a Bible in times past, and why have they thought it worth while to spend so much time copying it by hand in order to pass it on?*

**From *Learning to Use the Bible***

**By Marion M. Brillinger**

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# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## THE ANVIL

I paused last eve beside the blacksmith's door  
And heard the anvil ring, the vesper chime;  
And looking in I saw upon the floor  
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had?" said I,  
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"  
"Just one," he answered. Then with twinkling eye:  
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's Word  
For ages skeptics' blows have beat upon;  
But though the noise of falling blows was heard,  
The anvil is unchanged; the hammers gone.

John Clifford

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## READING

Would you like a profitable assignment you can do easily? One that will make you happy? Listen to this word to Timothy: "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. . . Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." (I Timothy 4:13 & 15) Giving these instructions to Timothy, Paul emphasizes the importance of the written Word which God has communicated to us.

It's always good to receive a letter from a friend--whether it is written on paper or now by E-mail or still more recently by texting or other electronic means. In every case it involves reading, a skill most of us learn as children. The letter must be clearly written, using words we know, and in a language we understand. This is so important that some men and women are giving their life efforts to translating God's Word into other languages so that more may read what He says to us.

To profit we must read with understanding and commitment. It is possible to read with our eyes and even understand, but still not be committed to the Word--to obey its directives. We focus here on God's Word as opposed to the writing of men. When Solomon wrote (Ecc.12:12) ". . . Of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh," he was not referring to God's Word. Psalm 119:105 boasts, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." And verse 130: "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understand unto the simple." What inestimable value there is in reading and receiving God's Word!

Pilgrim's Progress, by John Bunyan in the 1680's has probably been read more than any other book except the Bible.



Bunyan quotes repeatedly from the Word, and uses allegories to teach profound lessons. He was criticized when his book was first published. He wrote in his poetic introduction that some say, "It is hard." Others "It is feigned." Some complained:

"But they want (need) solidness."

"Speak, man, thy mind."

"They drown the weak;

Metaphors make us blind."

In spite of critics, Bunyan had his book printed, and it has inspired multitudes. I treasure a copy given to my mother by my father in December, 1912, before they were married. She wrote in the book: "Finished Jan. 29, 1913."

Many valuable books are available, but many others are not worth the time to read, and still others are dangerously evil. To find good reading, take the advice of brethren and sisters. Some conservative publishers can be relied on to print books safe and inspirational. One test is given in John 4:2: "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God." Does your book honor our Savior? Does it make us more like Him? Or does it just entertain us?

Families can enjoy inspirational and interesting reading together. Christian School teachers usually have a time to read wholesome books to their students.

Ezra and Nehemiah recognized the critical need for reading the law to the people as they returned to their land from captivity in a heathen country. They set a time and built a special wooden pulpit for readers to stand on above the crowd of listeners. Nehemiah records, "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."

The people wept when they heard the law. They had been captives for seventy years in Babylon. But Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites told the people, "This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not nor weep. . . neither be ye sorry; for the

joy of the Lord is your strength." What encouragement for the people after a long journey back to their land!

I hope we don't need a similar experience away from God to appreciate His Word. It is our joy and strength, too.

Be thankful for the gift of reading. We can hear of others' experiences in the Kingdom, and we can see vivid pictures of those standing for God in tough situations. But there is no substitute for reading for ourselves the Word God has for us. The Father sent Jesus, the Living Word, to show us, to tell us, and to sacrifice His life for us. Let us read for His glory!

--L.C.

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## PRIDE AND CHURCH SPLITS

Pride is when we are selfish with our respect. We are keeping too much of our respect for ourselves and not giving enough respect to others when we are being proud. Pride keeps us from having close relationships. Pride keeps us from being close to God like we should be, and like God desires; so I think this is why God hates pride.

God desires to have a relationship with us. The Bible says His thoughts toward us are as the sands of the sea.

God desires that we have relationships with each other and Him. He tells us to confess our faults one to another, and pray for each other in order that we may be healed. I think the biggest reason we don't want to confess our faults one to another is our pride. We would rather keep our pride, (But in the process we keep our problems too.) than risk humbling ourselves and seeking the healing that God recommends to us in His Word. I think God tells us to do this because He knows that most of us wouldn't do it unless He told us to.

Jesus can't confess His faults to us because He doesn't have any. But how does He treat us? He tells us of His love. He

demonstrates His love for us by loving us FIRST, even though we reject Him. So then we who have MANY faults won't show love to others because we feel hurt and rejected by them? So we can say hurtful things and reject them because they did it to us first? This is not what Jesus wants us to do, brethren. Jesus many times tells us to follow His example. He wants us to be like Him. That means loving others FIRST. That means humbling ourselves. Didn't Jesus humble Himself? YES! Humbling ourselves means giving our respect and honor to God and to others and seeking to have a close relationship with God and my brethren.

When we obey God, we are giving our respect to Him and preferring His ways over our own desires.

When we have a church split, we are damaging many relationships. At the root of many church splits are people who divide into groups of mutual disrespect. My group doesn't respect your group because your group disrespects my group, and the cycle feeds itself and spins on and on. But when we realize that this is so contrary to so many principles in God's Word, we should be willing to confess our faults one to another and ask for forgiveness, and give our respect to God and to our former brethren "on the other side of the fence," and prefer one another in love, and speak the truth IN LOVE, and seek to be one in Christ, (as Jesus prayed that we would be one, and that by this shall the world know that we are His) and be willing to talk and pray with and for each other about how we can be reconciled. (I know this is a run-on sentence.)

People say this is impossible. So is being saved. It is impossible in our own strength. Because of His love for us and His desire to have a relationship with us, God makes salvation possible. Because God desires that we have close relationships with each other, He tells us many ways to build relationships with each other. He tells us to prefer one another in love. He commands that we love one another. In fact, He says that if we



don't love one another, we can't love Him. Wow, this is serious! Can we say we love one another and keep so much of our pride that we will hardly talk to each other? I heard it said, "I love that person, but I don't have to like him." Is that the kind of love God has for us?

You may say "But we had to separate for such and such a reason." There may be cases where that is true, but we should still respect and love those on "the other side of the fence?"

Church splits do not show God or my brethren honor. To have the close relationship with Jesus that He desires for us, He tells us to prefer each other. Jesus wants us to have close relationships with each other.

We must value as precious and dear to our hearts our relationships with each other. If we don't, we are forgetting about the debt we owed that He paid. If we say that it is not practical to maintain these relationships, then we are missing a vital message in God's Word. Let us give away our respect and not be proud. Honor is respect from the heart. To honor others is the first step in building relationships with others. Let us build relationships with each other as He commands and show each other honor by loving others as I love myself. Who is my neighbor? Aren't my brethren my neighbors too?

Do I honor you if I refuse to listen to you?

Do I honor you if I try to force you to see things my way?

Do I honor you if I try to listen and understand you?

Do I honor God if I honor You?

Mark Brown

Tuolumne, California

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### SERMON QUOTE

The longsuffering of God is salvation to those who will follow and heed what He says.



## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

## NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL

Sub-normal, normal, or above normal--under which category would our schools need to be placed? We would probably consider our schools to be normal schools; following the usual, accepted standard. Sub-normal gives us the idea that it is below or inferior to the norm; and above normal of course means better than normal. Now we need to ask ourselves, "What is the accepted standard that is set for our schools?" and "Is it satisfactory?" Or should we be looking for ways to improve the standard? Let us consider a few examples of accepted norms, and then decide if we can be satisfied with them.

First, let us take a look at two common questions that we often hear people ask children. The first one is "Do you like school?" We might consider that to be an innocent question, thinking, "What is wrong with a question like that?" Well, let us stop and consider what we are asking. When we ask a question as such, we are telling our children they have a choice to like or dislike school. Is disliking school even an option? The other question that is often overheard is "Do you like your teacher?" True, we all have different personalities, and some personalities are more compatible to our personality, but where in the Bible do we find that we are allowed to choose if we will like or dislike someone? These questions, though they seem harmless, are giving room for a negative attitude to be planted in our children's minds. Do children need our help in developing wrong attitudes? Don't wrong attitudes seem to develop on their own?

Another area to consider is when former students, parents included, make light of the pranks they did while in school.

These discussions frequently take place in the presence of schoolchildren, and are often recalled in the absence of any remorse for the deed that was done. Thus, parents often excuse their children's misdeeds that occur at school, saying, "They are only children; we did that too when we went to school." Is this acceptable? What message is this leaving to our children?

There are several more areas we could discuss. One area is the amount of teasing about boyfriends and girlfriends. Sometimes this is tolerated by parents and teachers, even in children as young as first grade.

Another is the amount of "fence crowding" that is done in regards to the school dress code and guidelines.

Still another could be the attitude that "We didn't have to learn that when we went to school. Why do they have to now?" This list could continue, but I feel enough has been said.

If perchance any of these situations describe the accepted norm in our schools, can we be satisfied? Are we going to just drift along with the flow, or will we put forth the effort that it takes to go against the flow? I realize that the work needed to change these "normal" situations to "above normal" does not rest solely in the hands of the teachers and board members. A great responsibility rests on the parents. But may we each be willing to do our part in making a difference.

Let us rise above the norm, allowing ourselves to be a beacon to those around us, setting a standard that is above normal, and striving with all our effort to attain to it! May we be concerned about the influence we are leaving, that it may be void of offense. God bless you as you endeavor to fill the calling to which He has called you.

Praising the Lord for His goodness,  
Edwin N. Martin from Newslines of the C.M.T.I.

-----  
When you don't make children responsible for their behavior, you are asking for heartache. From a reader.

## APPROXIMATE DATES OF BIBLE HISTORY

- 4000 BC. Creation of man
- 3870 BC. Birth of Seth (age 912)
- 3765 BC. Birth of Enos (age 905)
- 3675 BC. Birth of Cainan (age 910)
- 3605 BC. Birth of Mahalaleel (age 895)
- 3540 BC. Birth of Jared (age 962)
- 3378 BC. Birth of Enoch (age 365)
- 3313 BC. Birth of Methuselah (age 969)
- 3126 BC. Birth of Lamech (age 777)
- 2944 BC. Birth of Noah (age 950)
- 2444 BC. Birth of Shem (age 600)
- 2344 BC. The Great Flood
  - Abraham journeys to Canaan
  - Isaac is born
  - Jacob is born
  - Family of Jacob settles in Egypt
- 1491 BC. Exodus of the Hebrews
- 1451 BC. Death of Moses
- 1429-1095 BC. Period of Judges
- 1095 BC. Beginning of the Kingdom of Saul
- 1055-1015 BC. Kingdom of David
- 1015-975 BC. Kingdom of Solomon
- 721 BC. Fall of Israel, the northern kingdom
- 587 BC. Fall of Judah
- 520 BC. Restoration of Jerusalem and the Temple
- 331 BC. Fall of Persia
- 321 BC. Palestine under the Ptolemies
- 198 BC. Palestine under the Seleucids
- 166 BC. The Maccabean Reaction
- 37 BC. Roman power established in Jerusalem
- 17 BC. Herod restores the Temple

1 or 4 or 6 BC. ? Jesus born

A.D. 32 ? Jesus Crucified

A.D. 70 Destruction of Jerusalem by Romans

A.D. 135 Jews banned from Jerusalem

A.D. 160-220 Christianity is brought to Britain

A.D. 337 Christianity is a favored religion

A.D. 476 Western Roman Empire is destroyed

A.D. 600 Mohammed begins spreading Islam

A.D. 732 Charles Martel defeats Islam armies

A.D. 1099 Jerusalem is capital of Latin-Christian Kingdom

A.D. 1453 Constantinople falls to Ottoman Turks

A.D. 1914-1918 World War I

A.D. 1939-1945 World War II

(Mostly from a history lesson by Ina Martin  
when she was in school.)

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### GOD NEEDS MEN

Men who will stand before His face and hear His voice daily.

Men who have no desire for anyone or anything other than God Himself.

Men who fear Him so greatly that they love righteousness and hate iniquity in all their ways.

Men who would rather die than sin, even in their thoughts or attitudes. GOD NEEDS MEN!

Men whose daily lifestyle is one of taking up the cross and pressing on to perfection.

Men who are full of the Holy Ghost, rooted and grounded in Calvary type love.

Men whose hearts are clothed with a humility that neither human praise nor spiritual growth can remove.

Men who tremble at God's Word and would not neglect to obey the smallest commandment. GOD NEEDS MEN!



Men who are firm, diligent, and hardworking; yet they can relax and enjoy playing with their children.

Men who know the joys of a disciplined life and are not afraid of hardships.

Men who have mastered their desire for fancy food, and are not enslaved to music, sports, or any other legitimate activity.

**GOD NEEDS MEN!**

Men who are so deeply rooted in the security and love of their heavenly Father that they tremble not at man or devil.

Men who trust God in all matters, and rest in His Almighty Sovereign power.

Men who find their joy and their delight in God alone, and are full of the joy of the Lord. **GOD NEEDS MEN!**

Men who live by the promptings of God's Spirit and deny their own desires.

Men who live constantly under the anointing of God's Spirit, endowed with gifts from above.

Men who can trust God for all their needs, who never hint about their material needs, nor ever boast about their labors.

**GOD NEEDS MEN!**

Men who are not stubborn, but gentle, open to criticism and correction from other brethren.

Men who can never be influenced by wife, children, relatives, or friends to cool off even slightly in their devotion to Christ.

**GOD NEEDS MEN!**

Men who will never compromise but stand alone for the truth without fear or favor of men.

Men who will train their children to the glory of God and preserve a Godly seed on the earth.

Men who discern all of life from heaven's point of view and make decisions in the light of eternity. **GOD NEEDS MEN!**

Men who pray effectual, fervent prayers with an unceasing faith.

Men who labor for the Glory of God, not for earthly treasures  
or earthly honors.

God needs men who burn with passion.

God needs men with Spiritual Authority.

God needs men of Christlike character.

"O God, our God in this our day, raise up men who walk this  
way. Help us to pray; help us to wail until the gaps are filled  
each day."

by Denny Kenaston

-----

### JUST SUPPOSE

If all that we say  
In a single day,  
With never a word left out,  
Were printed each night  
In clear black and white  
'Twould prove queer reading, no doubt.

And then, just suppose,  
Ere one's eyes he could close,  
He must read the day's record through;  
Then wouldn't one sigh,  
And wouldn't he try  
A great deal less talking to do?

And I more than half think  
That many a kink  
Would be smoother in life's tangled thread  
If half that we say  
In one single day  
Were left forever unsaid.

Selected from *Poems for Memorization*

## BAPTISMS

Reuben Cover Tuolumne, California January 31

Jenna Crawmer Modesto, California January 31

May God bless these young people as they serve faithfully in the Kingdom of God.

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## THE BRIDGE BUILDER

An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came at the evening, cold and gray,  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide,  
Through which was flowing a raging tide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;  
The sullen stream had no fears for him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with building here;  
Your journey will end with the closing day;  
You never again will pass this way;  
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide.  
Why build you this bridge at eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head.  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followeth after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm which has been as naught to me,  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim:  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

Selected

FOR YOUTH  
BIBLE QUIZ (sword practice)

Which Old Testament person said this?

Choose answers from the following: Samson Judges 16:28; Esau Gen. 25:32; Ruth 1:16; Joshua 24:15; Joseph Gen. 50:20; Habakkuk 2:4; Samuel I Sam. 15:29; Lepers of Samaria II Kings 7:9; Saul I Sam. 15:13; Jeremiah 17:9; Job 19:25; Abraham's servant Gen. 24:27; David II Sam. 12:23; Abraham Gen. 18:25; Pharaoh's daughter Ex. 2:6; Elijah I Kings 18:21

1. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
  2. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. But the just shall live by his faith. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good. . . \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? \_\_\_\_\_
  8. I being in the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren. \_\_\_\_\_
  9. This is one of the Hebrews' children. \_\_\_\_\_
  10. O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God. . . \_\_\_\_\_
  11. Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee, for whither thou goest, I will go. . . \_\_\_\_\_
-



12. I have performed the commandment of the Lord.

13. And also the Strength of Israel will not lie or repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent. \_\_\_\_\_

14. I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

15. How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.

16. We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace. . . \_\_\_\_\_

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### MANNERS

Water and soap will make you sweet;  
Brush and comb will keep you neat;  
But "Thank you," "Please," and "Pardon me."  
Will make a sweeter child of thee.

With clothes that have no spot or rent,  
With shoes that shine, be not content,  
But polish up your manners, too;  
Make courtesy a part of you.

Florence A. Richardson

---

### WHEN HE COMES

A gentleman visiting a certain school gave out that he would give a prize to the pupil whose desk was found in the best order when he returned.

"But when will you come back?" some of them asked.

"That I cannot tell," was the answer. A little girl who had been noted for her disorderly habits announced that she meant to win the prize.

"You!" her schoolmates jeered. "Why, your desk is always out of order."

"Oh, but I mean to clean it the first of every week."

"But suppose he should come at the end of the week?" someone asked.

"Then I will clean it every morning."

"But he may come at the end of the day."

For a moment the little girl was silent. "I know what I'll do," she said decidedly, "I'll just keep it clean."

So it must be with the Lord's servants who would be ready to receive the prize of His coming. It may be at midnight, at cock-crowing or in the morning. The exhortation is not, "Get ye ready," but, "Be ye ready."

By Mattie E. Boteler in *Testimony of Truth* Nov, 1948

Selected by Rosanna Royer

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# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## **FATHER, FORGIVE THEM**

**Father, forgive them  
for they know not what they do.**

**To-day shalt thou be with me  
in Paradise.**

**Woman, behold thy son!**

**Behold thy mother!**

**My God, My God,  
why hast Thou forsaken me?**

**I thirst.**

**It is finished.**

**Father, into Thy hands  
I commend my spirit.**

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## THE CROSS

There it lay, the heavy cross that had recently held the body of Jesus. The spring grass had been tramped down by the mob, and visible across the countryside were cracks in the rocks and hills, the results of the violent earthquake that opened graves and rent rocks when Jesus died. The awful activity was over and the mob was gone.

Joseph of Arimathaea had boldly petitioned Pilate that he might dispose of the body. Joseph was a man of influence, one of the Jews' council. He was a secret disciple of Jesus and may not have been called to the hasty meeting of the council the night before. At least, he did not consent that Jesus should be condemned the way He was. Pilate granted Joseph permission to take the body. He "took him down" from the cross, and now that tree was no longer needed. The bloody nails, pried out to release His mangled hands and swollen feet, lay as grim reminders of the sufferings He had endured and the cruelty of the executioners.

Joseph, being a man of means, had hewn out a tomb for himself to receive his own body when he died. It was in a beautiful setting, a garden, and Joseph no doubt hallowed the spot as a final resting place for himself and his family. But things had changed for Joseph. Somehow this Jesus had made life seem more vital and death less final. Had He not called Lazarus from a rock tomb only a few miles away at Bethany? Had He not proved twice before that He had power over death by raising a little girl and a young man? But now Jesus Himself was dead. Joseph's devotion, secret before, now showed itself openly.



Nicodemus, also a secret disciple of Jesus, came to help, bringing "a mixture of myrrh and aloes about an hundred pound weight." Together they wrapped Jesus' body in fine, new linen with the spices "as the manner of the Jews is to bury." A special napkin was wrapped around His head. They laid Jesus in this new rock tomb and "rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre."

The cross had fulfilled its destined purpose. It had held the dying Son of God. Legions of angels would gladly have come to rescue Him from this suffering, shame, and death, but how then could the Scriptures be fulfilled that thus it must be? From this time on, the cross would have a different meaning for God's people. Before, it was only an instrument of torture where one who fell into disfavor with the ruling powers spent his last agonizing hours. It held only horror and death. It was a place of a curse. Those who hung on a tree were under the curse. For the law said, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

But now the cross has become a symbol of salvation--a place where the price was paid for the sins of the world by the suffering Son of God. It has become a meeting place for God and man. It is a meeting place of peace where Creator and creature are reconciled by the One who suffered there.

Now the cross would lose its horror for Jesus' followers. Many would be called upon to follow their Saviour to the death on a cross. Many would be burned on crosses with the flames lighting the revelings and excesses of the Roman ruler and his guests. The cross still remains the instrument of torture and death, but because of Jesus' dying and coming through with victory over the grave, death has lost its horror. Christians can now die in peace and confidence, even on a cross.

According to John, Jesus was led to Calvary "bearing his cross." The other accounts say that Simon, a Cyrenian, was compelled to carry the cross. Taking the accounts together we can conclude that Jesus started out with the heavy cross on His

own shoulders, but because of His ordeal of scourging, mocking, and loss of sleep, He was unable to carry it all the way to Calvary. Simon, probably a black man, will be remembered for this service to Jesus.

Jesus spoke to His disciples about "bearing the cross" before He went to Calvary. He said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matt. 16:24) We can understand now what this means. The cross can only mean death. To deny ourselves and take up our cross means to do, in some way, what Jesus did. Paul says, "I am crucified with Christ . . ." So we can understand that there must be a death in our experience. Sin and the "old man" must die. It may not be on a flaming cross as some of the early Christian martyrs literally did. But it must be nonetheless real. But this is not all.

After Jesus' terrible ordeal on the cross and His time in the tomb of Joseph, He was able to take up His life again by the commandment of the Father. His mangled body was given life, and He rose from that tomb. This is the reason the cross can now be an instrument of victory instead of death and defeat. We now die with Jesus, but if we do we can also live with Him.

We are now to glory in that old rugged cross. Paul was not one to glory or boast except when he felt compelled to defend his authority to those who seemed to have confidence in the flesh. He wrote to the Romans that boasting was excluded. There is no reason to glory in the flesh. But Paul wrote to the Galatians (6:14), "But God forbid that I should glory, **save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

We can and should glory in that cross-- not for what it was but for the One who hung upon it. We don't glory in the shameful act of torture of the Son of God who was sent to rescue fallen man. But we glory in the willingness and ability of Jesus to endure such suffering and by it ransom our souls from

certain death. We glory that God found a way to save us when we had no way and no hope.

Yes, we can glory in the cross. And now we sing:

*Must Jesus bear the cross alone,*

*And all the world go free?*

*No, there's a cross for everyone,*

*And there's a cross for me.*

Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow Him. Here is where we break with the world and identify with Jesus. Here is where we die to sin. Let us return again and again to Calvary. Let us see Him there "bearing our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed." (I Peter 2:24) L.C.  
(Reprinted from *The Pilgrim* April-May, 1976.)

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### CROSS OF CHRIST

Cross of Christ, O sacred tree,

Hide my sins and shelter me;

Claim of merit have I none,

I am vile and all undone;

I to thee for succor fly,

Give me refuge or I die.

Cross of Christ, O sacred tree,

All my hopes are hung on thee.

Cross of Christ, O sacred tree,

Let me to thy shadow flee;

Here they mocked the Crucified,

Here the royal Sufferer died.

Here was shed the atoning blood;

Here expired the Son of God.

Cross of Christ, O sacred tree,

Can the guilty trust in thee?

Cross of Christ, O sacred tree,  
This my boast shall ever be:  
That Thy blood for me was shed:  
That for me He groaned and bled.  
Now I catch that gracious eye;  
Now I know I shall not die.  
Cross of Christ, O sacred tree,  
All my guilt is lost in thee.

Daniel T. Taylor

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## WORSHIP

The word "worship" occurs 107 times in the Bible. The last use of the word "worship" in the Bible is Revelation 22:9: "... worship God." Much is said in the Scriptures regarding worship. We will here regard worship as a service of obeisance to a Divine Being.

Why do we worship? What do we worship? Is worship necessary? As long as there are questions regarding intelligent awareness, humans will subscribe to theories which lead to a respect of a power beyond their control. This respect, if misdirected, can lead to a level of idol worship.

The Israelites before Mount Sinai (Exodus 21:18-21) pledged to serve and worship God largely from fear of His power demonstrated at the Mount. This motive for worship is somewhat like a servant or a child who is obedient for fear of what will happen if orders are not followed. I have been exposed to this pattern in both Church and home. I realize this natural fear of disobedience has its place, but I am speaking of a higher level of obedience which is motivated by love and devotion. Worship, if not prompted by love, is empty. For this reason God revealed His love to us in His Son Jesus. Jesus came as the poorest of men, paid the price for sin, and has



promised to forgive sin. Accepting Jesus' words: "Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more," we can honor and worship Him with true reverence and love. (John 8:11).

Worship God. Can the emphasis of worship be shifted from our Lord? Jesus is the only way of salvation and peace with God. All worship and reverence must be Christ centered. When a group, liturgy, or symbol acquires sacred significance, there is danger of worshipping the form rather than worshipping Jesus. This can develop into a form of idol worship. I in no way wish to demean the organization and ordinances of the Church. Rather, I encourage the use of wisdom in keeping our priorities in order.

Is worship necessary? Yes! Man was created for God's pleasure (Rev. 4:11). God's desire was to have a creature who of its own free will would love and worship Him. God created man, and God loved the persons He created. When man sinned, this relationship between God and man was broken. God's unfailing love made a way to restore this relationship. Those whom God has redeemed should have no greater joy than to honor, praise, and thank the Lord in worship.

Joseph E. Wagner  
Modesto, California

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## OBITUARY

**Charlotte Emma (Weaver) Frick**, daughter of Henry Hale and Viola Hazel Weaver, was born April 10, 1922, near Grand Junction, Colorado. She passed away in the home of her son Glen on March 2, 2010.

Charlotte was a homemaker most of her life, learning the art of sewing when she was five years old. She endured the pains of the Depression, battled the dust bowls of the 30's, suffered

the loss of her father in March, 1933, and worked hard to help her widowed mother feed the family and care for their needs.

At the age of twelve in October, 1934, Charlotte answered the call to take Christ into her heart. In her teens, she enjoyed the fellowship of her young folks and her church at Cloverleaf Dunkard Brethren Church, McClave, Colorado, and later at the Englewood and Eldorado congregations. In 1946 Charlotte and her family joined the Primitive Dunkard Brethren Church merging in 1948 with the Conservative German Baptist Brethren Church. For almost forty-eight years she served in the church with her husband George and showed kindness to all. In 1996 she affiliated with the Old Brethren Church, where she was a member at the time of her passing.

Charlotte married George Otis Frick on September 5, 1945, at her parents' home. To this union were born five children: Gloria, Linda, Glen, Retha, and Daryl. The marriage was broken on April 26, 1996, when George passed away in their home.

Charlotte always had a concern for her children, grand children, and great grandchildren. The day before her passing she prayed audibly for all her family as she lay bedfast. She loved to make food and watch it being devoured by her family. She enjoyed her flower gardens and going to family reunions.

Charlotte would usually be in the house of God each Sunday. She enjoyed hymn sings, singing many by heart.

On February 28, family and friends gathered around her bedside to sing. At the end of "We'll Never Say Good-Bye in Heaven," Charlotte raised her hand and said, "Good-Bye." Mom encouraged us all to be faithful and then said, "I want to meet you all in heaven."

In addition to her parents and her husband George, Charlotte was also preceded in death by her step father, Loring Isaac Moss; two brothers: Albert and Delbert Weaver; two

sisters: Hazel Weaver and Ida Keeny; and ten step brothers and sisters.

Charlotte is survived by her children: Gloria and Mervin Hilty; Linda Frick; Glen and Shirley Frick; Retha and Robert Musser; and Daryl and Sieglinda Frick; 18 grandchildren and 34 great grandchildren; a sister: Arvilla and Ray Keeny; brother-in-law Lloyd and Catherine Keeny; sisters-in-law: Elizabeth "Betty" Weaver and Marie Keck; step sister-in-law: Beulah Janette Moss/Reed, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the Palestine Old Brethren Church March 5, with Elders Neil Martin and Thomas Royer officiating at the church and Daniel Beery at the committal service. Burial was in the Miller Cemetery, Greenville, Ohio.

The family wishes to express our thanks for the blessings of service, prayers, and cards sent while caring for Charlotte in her affliction. She will certainly be missed by those who loved her. Our loss is her gain, and might our thoughts be turned heavenward as we travel onward and upward until we meet again.

### The Family

#### I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free;  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard him call;  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day;  
To laugh, to love, to work or play,  
Tasks left undone must stay that way;  
I found that place at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;  
Just think of me now in all my bliss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow;  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full; I savored much;  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief  
Lift up your heart and share with me;  
God wanted me now; He set me free!

Selected by Family

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## HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

When in sorrow, read John 14.  
When men fail you, read Psalm 27.  
When you have sinned, read Psalm 51.  
When you worry, read Matthew 6:19-34.  
When you are in danger, read Psalm 91.  
When you have the blues, read Psalm 34.  
When God seems far away, read Psalm 139.  
If you want to be fruitful, read John 15.  
When doubts come upon you, read John 7:17.  
When you are lonely or fearful, read Psalm 23.  
When you forget your blessings, read Psalm 23, 103.  
For Jesus' idea of a Christian, read Matthew 5.  
For James's idea of religion, read James 1:19-27  
When you faith needs stirring, read Hebrews 11.  
When you feel down and out, read Romans 8:31-39.  
When you are discouraged, read Isaiah 40, Psalm 37, 126.  
When you want courage for your task, read Joshua 1.



When the world seems bigger than God, read Psalm 90.  
When you want rest and peace, read Matthew 11:25-30.  
For Paul's secret of happiness, read Colossians 3:12-17.  
When you want Christian assurance, read Romans 8:1-30.  
When you leave home for labor or travel, read Psalm 121.  
When you grow bitter or critical, read I Corinthians 13.  
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, read Psalm 67.  
For Paul's idea of Christianity, read II Corinthians 5:15-19.  
For Paul's rules on how to get along with men, Romans 12.  
When you think of investments and returns, read Mk 10:17-31.  
For a great invitation and opportunity, read Isaiah 55.  
For Jesus' idea of prayer, read Luke 11:1-13, Matthew 6:5-15.  
Why not follow Psalm 119:11 and hide some of these in your memory?

From the Evangelical Visitor, March, 1952  
Selected by Martha Cover

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### BIRTHS

- ✓ Hilty - A daughter, Janessa Brooke, born March 6 to Jeff and Allison Hilty of Goshen, Indiana.
  - ✓ Martin - A son, Vincent Jared, born March 31 to Jesse and Melina Martin of Wakarusa, Indiana.
- 

### ADDRESS CHANGES

- ✓ Jason Kreider                      New phone #: (937) 548-0501
- ✓ Craig Royer                      27348 C.R. 30  
Elkhart, IN 46517

FOR YOUTH  
The Christian and Technology

In Matthew 15, the Pharisees confronted Jesus because His disciples were eating with unwashed hands. Later Jesus explains to His disciples (and to us) that what really defiles an individual is what comes out of the heart, not what enters into the mouth. But what is the heart? And how should I, as a Christian, "keep" it with all diligence?

When Jesus and Solomon refer to the "heart," they are not speaking of a physical organ. The heart is the seat and center of my life; my desires, feelings, affections, passions, and impulses all come from my heart. Unfortunately I (and you, too) was born with a heart defect, spiritually speaking. It came from Adam and was diagnosed accurately by Jeremiah: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know It?" (Jer. 17:9) Our condition is terminal without Jesus Christ.

**But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. (Rom. 13:14)**

When we come to God through faith in Jesus Christ, repenting of and confessing our sins, He cleanses us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:9) However, our physical bodies do not die. Our feelings, affections, passions, and impulses do not automatically change; they must be voluntarily yielded to the control of the indwelling Holy Spirit which God promises to each one who believes in Him. (Act 2:38) This is not a quick process. Perhaps that is why Paul likens it to being crucified. (Gal. 2:20)

As long as there is breath in my body, I contend with my "flesh," as God's Word calls it. My flesh does not understand or welcome the control of the Holy Spirit. The flesh opposes the Spirit, and the Spirit opposes the flesh. One of them is going to win and one of them is going to lose. This is where the Christian fights the daily battle. Every day, perhaps every moment I am yielding to the Holy Spirit and crucifying the flesh or yielding to my flesh and resisting the Spirit. There is no middle ground and no compromise between these two foes.

Paul tells us to put on the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the most important part of my Christian life. Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ needs to be a constant occupation. How do I do this? There are several things I have found invaluable in my Christian walk.

**Prayer.** Not just before meals or in the middle of a crisis. I mean a running conversation all day with your Creator. God's Word commands us to "pray without ceasing." (I Thess. 5:17) Pray for the things God has promised: being filled with the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit, peace that passes understanding, strength for every trial, just to name a few.

**God's Word.** Fill your life with God's Word--chapters of it. Read the Bible through. Pray that God would show you how and where His Word applies to your life.

**Actively yield to the Holy Spirit.** If there is a weakness or sin you cannot get victory over, ask your brothers and sisters to pray for you. Don't be passive, be proactive. Set aside your pride and be clothed with humility. Ask God to show you where He wants you to change, and then do it.

Paul tells us not to make provision for the flesh. My flesh produces all sorts of lusts. Unrighteous desires that demand to be gratified. When I willfully (either by negligence or choice) place myself in a circumstance that provides the means to gratify and feed these unrighteous desires, I make provision for the flesh. This is a very dangerous habit to get into.

**And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away. (I Cor 7:31)**

Technology, especially in the area of communication and the internet has taken giant strides forward in the last few decades. Computers have gotten smaller, faster, easier to use, and more connected to the rest of the world than ever before. The internet provides us with instant access to every conceivable piece of information available. This can be good and this can be bad, depending on whether we use this technology or abuse it.

I would not choose to cut wood for my fireplace or stove with a handsaw if I had a chainsaw available. But neither would I allow my five year old son to use my chainsaw. And I probably would not use a chainsaw without taking some precautions: earplugs, workboots, safety equipment, making sure others are not in the way, etc. In many ways, spiritually speaking, my approach to the internet, texting, social networking sites like Facebook, Xanga, e-mail, etc. should be analogous. These things are powerful tools of communication. No longer am I limited with writing a single letter to one person. Now I can blog or e-mail my thoughts to hundreds. Inaccuracies and untruths once posted on the internet are impossible to retract or eradicate.

Though these tools can be used for good, much of what I see posted and written is not very edifying and some of what I see is downright alarming. I'm not just talking to young people here, though you are definitely involved. I don't want to be entirely negative, but I think we all need to step back and evaluate why we are involved and using these tools.

Some questions to consider before and while we are using these things:

1. Have I put on the Lord Jesus Christ as I write this e-mail, log on to the internet?--you fill in the blank.
2. Am I in prayer to God?



3. Am I yielding to the Holy Spirit?  
4. Is what I am doing going to "make provision for the flesh"?

5. Is this what God wants me to do right now?

May we all take Paul's advice in II Cor. 13:5: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" These are serious times that call for serious action.

Eddie Wagner  
Modesto, California

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### CHILDREN'S PAGE

#### Weeds and Deeds

A naughty little weed one day  
Poked up its tiny head,  
"Tomorrow I will pull you up,  
Old Mr. Weed," I said.

But I put off the doing till,  
When next I passed that way,  
The hateful thing had spread abroad  
And laughed at my dismay.

A naughty little thought one day  
Popped right into my mind.  
"O--oh!" I cried, "I'll put you out  
Tomorrow, you will find."

But once again I put it off  
Till, like the little weed,

The ugly thing sprang up apace  
And grew into a deed.

So, boys and girls, heed what I say  
And learn it with your sums:  
Don't put off till tomorrow, for  
Tomorrow never comes.

Today pull up the little weeds,  
The naughty thoughts subdue,  
Or they may take the reins themselves  
And someday master you.

Selected from *Scrapbook of Ideas #2*  
by Vera Overholt

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THE PILGRIM  
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# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## HE ABIDES

I'm rejoicing night and day,  
As I walk the pilgrim way,  
For the hand of God in all my life I see,  
And the reason of my bliss,  
Yes, the secret all is this:  
That the Comforter abides with me.

Once my heart was full of sin,  
Once I had no peace within,  
Till I heard How Jesus died upon the tree;  
Then I fell down at His feet,  
And there came a peace so sweet;  
Now the Comforter abides with me.

He is with me everywhere,  
And He knows my every care;  
I'm as happy as a bird and just as free,  
For the Spirit has control;  
Jesus satisfies my soul,  
Since the Comforter abides with me.

There's no thirsting for the things  
Of the world; they've taken wings;  
Long ago I gave them up, and instantly  
All my night was turned to day,  
All my burdens rolled away,  
Now the Comforter abides with me.

--Herbert Buffum, 1879-1939

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## BEHOLD THY MOTHER

Jesus' words from the cross committed the care of His mother to John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved." It showed His love for her and has become a pattern for us all as we honor our mothers this Mother's Day.

Mothers are special. As someone has said, "Motherhood is not easy. If it were easy, it would not have started with something called 'labor.'" We fathers and sons should remember that we escaped that pain.

Mothers have outstanding virtues. I saw it in my mother and also in my wife. They are frugal. A hard working husband should be thankful for a wife who does not waste food or anything else. Grandmother Baker said, "A wife can throw out more with a spoon than a man can bring in with a shovel." My mother taught us, "Whate'er you waste or throw away, you'll live to want another day." Our country could help poor people and poor countries more if it weren't for our waste.

Mothers are needed. Able as my father was, he could not take the place of my mother. He tried to prepare meals in her rare absence. But they were not the same. My own family experienced the same vacancy when Mother was gone. Not only in meals but in just about every household duty we felt the loss.

Mothers are protective. It is in her nature to protect her child at all cost. Our own daughter waded up to her neck in the manure lagoon to rescue her son who had fallen in. When persecutors tried to extort confessions or secrets from a mother, they sometimes threatened harm to her child. Only her faithfulness to Christ and her brothers and sisters could surpass her love for her child. Even in animal mothers, the protective nature shows



when her baby is harmed. Especially mother hens are defiant in care for their chicks.

Mothers are opinionated--prejudiced even--regarding their children. (School teachers need to understand this and deal with it wisely.) Their children are special to them, and they should be--this is right. It is part of their protective nature.

Mothers deserve respect. Leviticus 19:3: "Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my Sabbaths. I am the Lord your God." Mothers sacrifice much for their families and should be honored more than on Mother's Day

Mothers have a high calling. Though some would belittle it, the profession of motherhood requires study and training. She learns "on the job." Besides intense training, she uses devotion, love, time, resources, imagination, ingenuity, and more. She often sacrifices her own desires to care for her children--and her husband.

We should mention too, those who have not been blest with children but have faithfully helped with caring for children of others. Aunt Sylvia comes to mind along with our unmarried ones who are so loved and so valuable, serving unselfishly their nieces and nephews and children of friends.

Abraham's wife Sarah (meaning "princess") is an example of faith. Hebrews 11:11: "Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised." Studying the account, we see she doubted and laughed at first. *What do these men know about having children? Impossible!* But at some point she realized that this was a promise from Him who is always faithful. So Isaac was the promised child and inherited the special favor God gave to Abraham. When we face a situation that appears impossible, let us remember that with God all things are possible to him that believes.

Let us honor our mothers and our wives--not just with gifts and flowers, but with gratitude in our hearts. One husband nearly always forgot Mother's Day, his wife's birthday, and Valentines Day. She was upset with him until he took her in his arms and told her he loved her not just two or three times a year but every day. May we have lasting love for our dear wives and mothers. --L.C.

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### WHY MEN CAN NOT BE EQUAL

We often hear it said how important a good teacher is in a school. That is true enough. Mothers and fathers and school board members should not forget to express their thanks and appreciation for the part their teacher plays in keeping the school running smoothly.

But perhaps there is someone else who is important to the school who seldom receives much thanks or appreciation. To illustrate my point, let me tell the Story of the Worldly Woman At Our Door.

She knocked at our door one fall morning. She pretended she had come on business, but after she was seated in our living room, it seemed that she was more interested in talking about our way of life. She asked many questions about how we live, and why. I tried to explain the main points of our faith the best I could.

My wife was busy washing dishes at the sink, and several of the small children were playing on the kitchen floor. Noticing the children, Worldly Woman said, "My husband and I are both employed. When I was growing up, my parents taught me that a woman's place is at home. And I know that is right. But I could never be content to leave my career, and stay at home to be just a mother."

Just a mother? No wonder she could not be content. The way she said "just a mother" showed that she considered it a step backward. She had absorbed the emphasis of the modern world and had come to believe that being a mother is something lowly and unimportant. She had come to regard a "career" as something challenging, rewarding, creative, exciting, fulfilling. Careers were more of an accomplishment, more important; while motherhood was being "just a mother." No wonder she could not have been content to be a mother, as long as she permitted the world's sense of values to influence her thinking.

We plain people are still a long way from taking the view of Worldly Woman. But if we are not on our guard, we, too, may come to appreciate too little the importance of mothers. This past summer we attended a large school meeting in Indiana. It was a time of inspiration and challenge. It was a time to encourage teachers, ministers, and board members. And it was easy to forget the role of the many, many mothers who are perhaps the most important cogs in the gears of a successful Christian School.

The world has made the mistake of slighting the importance of mothers. For the last several decades, girls have been challenged to assert their rights, to demand careers, to insist on being equal to men. Equal? How ridiculous that anyone should pretend that mothers would be more important if they could be men! Modern women talk of being "creative," but they don't know the real meaning of the word. They create little of real worth; most of their lives are taken up with emptiness, froth, vanity, and bubbles. For centuries, godly mothers have been truly creative; not only bringing lives into the world, but with loving nurture, rearing and shaping those lives into Christian paths.

Traditionally men are supposed to be big and brave and fearless. But in their own way, mothers exceed us in facing dangers, pain, and fear. I have long suspected that most of us



men would whimper in dread and cower in fear at the pangs of childbirth. The attitude of mothers, suffering quietly and submissively again and again gives a hollow sound to men's talk of bravery, heroics and endurance. (Many brave men even shrink from being present at birth, lest they should faint!)

And the physical hurdles to motherhood are just a start. The true test of character, endurance, and sheer bravery comes later during the raising of the family. Mothers are on call twenty-four hours a day.

Our bank in town has a woman for an assistant-manager. It is true; she is a capable woman. Yet if I were to phone her sometime at midnight and tell her it is an emergency, and I need to get some money out of the bank, do you suppose she would come to the bank, unlock it, and give me the money? Of course not. Her job compared with a mother's is a soft and easy one. A child need only whimper at two o'clock in the morning to get his mother out of bed, bare feet on the cold floor and at his cribside immediately. And that mother needs to be able to decide what to do, and whether the child needs to be taken to the bathroom, or is cold or hungry, has earache, tummy ache, appendicitis, had a bad dream, or was just lonesome for Mom. And she needs to be able to follow up and take the correct action in case it is any (or all) of those possibilities.

I cannot get over how mixed-up people can become. If a woman can handle a semi-truck, or manage a store, she thinks she has been very successful in life; she has really accomplished something. All those things may be fine, but the real test is: could she cope with the role of a mother? Could she keep the children's faces clean, and do it without nagging? The windows scrubbed, the floors swept, the dishes washed, the laundry done, the beds made, the sewing caught up, the patching looked after, the buttons fastened, the garden planted, the canning finished, the eggs cleaned? Plus serve as a fulltime cook for a dozen or more, always be pleasant and dependable, able to



settle spats and quarrels, help with the chores in the barn, teach the children manners, and a host of other things good mothers have a knack for. Don't forget, Career-Woman-of-the-World, she does all this with a minimum of appreciation, no salary, seldom a holiday, and scarcely any thanks.

Men are supposed to be big and brave. I feel like a traitor to admit it publicly, but honesty demands it. Compared with my wife, I'm a coward. Take the small matter of changing a diaper, for example. That's a breeze for any mother, but it's enough to make many men wince. Babies, however cute and lovable, have a messy side to them, too. It's not the wet diapers that bother me. I wasn't a father for very long until I had conquered that. In those days I still figured I could do anything my wife could. But when Baby had a real mess, it tried me out. I concentrated on not showing my distaste. I could tell my wife was taking a keen interest in how I handled the situation. It took me a long while, scanning closely for safe spots, touching gingerly only unsoiled fringes. The hardest part was not breathing all that while.

But I made it. I felt good about myself. "I knew I could do it if you could," I said.

"Oh?" she said, raising her eyebrows. "That's nice. Maybe you could help me wash out some of those diapers, later."

She made it sound like a commonplace comment, just a friendly suggestion of work to do. But I knew she was throwing out a challenge.

As it turned out, I couldn't go near the bucket of unwashed diapers. But my wife was more than a match for it. She rolled up her sleeves, and humming to herself, she went in there with both hands and bare arms, rubbing, scrubbing, washing. I backed even farther away, repelled by the smell. She went calmly on, as if she had done lots of worse things. When I turned for the door, she playfully flipped a diaper at me, and laughed as I ingloriously stumbled over my feet to escape.

So now you know in part why I nearly choked that morning in the living room when Worldly Woman, dressed in her finery, reeking with perfume, could look down over her powdered nose and say, "I could never be content to be just a mother." Indeed!

We need to keep a sense of perspective and give credit where credit is due. Mothers are so important that if there weren't any mothers, there wouldn't be any of the rest of us either. In addition to that obvious fact, in a world without mothers, who would want to be here, anyhow?

Mothers can work miracles. When a child's nose is running, mother can wipe it clean on her own handkerchief. She can calm big fears, settle difficult quarrels, and with a single puff of her magic breath, can blow away most of the hurt from bumps and bruises.

She not only sends the children off to school with their faces scrubbed, their hair combed, their clothes washed, their lunches packed, but she is also largely responsible for their emotional frame of mind. She makes each child feel like the most precious being on earth. Without that feeling of self-worth, of self-esteem and dignity, without that necessary security of being loved and wanted at home, the child would be unable to learn in school and would be hard to get along with.

In conclusion, let's appreciate our board members. Let's appreciate our teachers. But most of all, let's thank God daily for dedicated mothers who are in voluntary service with the most important career of all --Motherhood.

By Elmo Stoll

From Blackboard Bulletin, February, 1983

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There is no reason to fear tomorrow when our lives are in the hands of one who knows the end from the beginning.

Selected

## WHAT IS A MOTHER?

It takes a mother's love  
To make a house a home;  
A place to be remembered,  
No matter where we roam.

It takes a mother's patience  
To bring a child up right,  
And her courage and her cheerfulness  
To make a dark day bright.

It takes a mother's thoughtfulness  
To mend the heart's deep hurts  
And her skill and her endurance  
To mend little socks and shirts.

It takes a mother's kindness  
To forgive us when we err,  
To sympathize in trouble  
And bow our heads in prayer.

It takes a mother's wisdom  
To recognize our needs  
And give us reassurance  
By her loving words and deeds.

And that is why in all this world  
There could not be another  
Who could fulfill God's purpose  
As completely as a mother.

Selected Author unknown

## Letter from a reader

*The following is part of a letter from a dear friend, Norman Sauder, of Pennsylvania. He also sends a poem written by his father, Ernest J. Sauder, the father of Edith, Norman, Paul, Anna Mae (now Conley) and Jonas Sauder, all members of the Old Order River Brethren Church.*

## Regarding the February Pilgrim:

... I see the text, page 7, was "Resolution." Took my mind to Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42. Mary had made a decision and resolved, I'm sure, to sit at Jesus' feet and listen. Jesus told Martha that one thing is needful and Mary chose that which will not be taken from her. Lest we be too hard on Martha my mind then goes to John 11:1-45, one of my favorite Bible chapters. Here we see a different Martha. Mary was kind of in the background now. This chapter shows the deep compassion and humanity of Jesus, His love for Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, along with His Godly power. The God-man, Son of God (Dan. 3:25) and son of man. We see Jesus weeping in vs. 35, and then on to verse 40 which is a very key verse in my mind. Backtracking a bit here, we often hear the statement, "Seeing is believing." There is some truth to that in this world. But spiritually Jesus turns that statement around, essentially saying in vs. 40, "Believing is seeing." How precious! First in vs. 26, He asked her if she believes. Now He tells her, "If you believe you'll see." No wonder the early Christians were called believers. May we be called the same today. I guess that's why Jesus couldn't do many mighty works where there was unbelief. Thanks for listening, but these are precious thoughts and Scriptures to me.

On page 10, Feb. Pilgrim, I read, "Joyful Trials." In my last testimony Wed. PM, when I asked for prayer and anointing, I said I'm still trying to learn what it means, and also how to



count it all joy when I fall into divers temptations? I realize God loves me enough to allow me to be tried and tested--not to prove to Him what I am, (He knows) but to prove to me how much I need Him and to learn what I am in His sight and also what I am not. If Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted 40 days of the devil, then I know I also need so much more to be tried and tested, since I am only human, and Christ is divine, our Lord and Savior. God tried Job, i.e. allowed Satan to. Jesus told Peter that Satan desired to sift him as wheat but, "I've prayed for thee that thy faith fail not." . . .

Lastly, on page 11, I see a poem titled "Prayer." Says this was found in Susie Coning's things. It just so happens that when I read this I had some of my Father's things here on my desk. One is a hymn/poem written by him; we don't know when, probably in the 1960's or before? Jonas gave me this in 1992. I'm sending it along. It's in Father's handwriting. If you want to print it in the Pilgrim someday feel free to. . .

Love, prayers, and God's blessings to you in Jesus' name,  
Norman & Alice Sauder.

### TRIALS

In the center of the circle  
Of the will of God I stand.  
There can come no second causes;  
All must come from His dear hand.  
All is well for 'tis my Father  
Who my life hath wholly planned  
  
Shall I pass through waves of sorrow  
Then I know it will be best;  
Though I cannot tell the reason,  
I can trust, and so am blest.  
God is love and God is faithful,  
So in perfect peace I rest.

With the shade and with the sunshine,  
With the joy and with the pain,  
Lord I trust Thee; both are needed,  
Each Thy wayward child to train  
Earthly loss, did we but know it,  
Often means our heavenly gain.

Ernest J. Sauder

---

### THANK YOU NOTE

To our friends and family,

Thank you so much for all the help, support, meals, and prayers over the past nine months. Moving in with Keith's Mom brought its challenges, but also many blessings. We were thankful for the help of young girls and meals, so we could continue Mom's care to the very end. All of our friends who helped in the moving process. . . Thank you, thank you! And then all the help and support at the time of Josephine's birth has been an added blessing. We are again grateful to all our friends and family for the efforts, sacrifice, and love shown through your helpfulness and prayers.

May God richly bless all of you!

The Keith Rhoades family

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### LOVE

I've found a little remedy  
To ease the life we live  
And make each day a happier one--  
It is the word *forgive*.

So often little things come up  
That leave a pain and sting,  
That covered up at once would not  
Amount to anything.

'Tis when we hold them up to view,  
And brood, and sulk, and fret,  
They greater grow before our eyes;  
'Twere better to forget.

From Apples of Gold  
Compiled by Jo Petty

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### BAPTISMS

David Taylor	Tuolumne, California	April 10
Jason Crawmer	Modesto, California	April 10

We wish these dear young brethren the grace of God as they  
serve the Lord Jesus in the Kingdom of Heaven.

-----

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Chris Crawmer	3354 Toomes Rd. Modesto, CA 95358
Luke Wagner	28425 N Black Canyon Hwy. Unit 1054 Phoenix, AZ 85085-7605

Matthew Martin's cell (937) 567-2794

Andrew Martin's cell (937) 417-5781

## FOR YOUTH

## THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff and pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. Let it fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.

It is given you in life, will be opened in judgment, and remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the highest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

Selected

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YOUR PLACE

Is your place a small place?  
Tend it with care!--He set you there.

Is your place a large place?  
Guard it with care!--He set you there

Whate'er your place, it is  
Not yours alone, but His--Who set you there.

By John Oxenham



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## HELPING HANDS

"I wish that I had two pairs of hands,"

Said Mom as I ran out the door.

"Two pairs of hands, two pairs of feet;

I could keep them busy and more!"

And I thought to myself, "How strange she would look,

Whenever she'd walk or she'd reach,"

And down in my heart I was glad, so glad

That she had only one pair of each.

But it bothered me some as I ran out to play,

For her prayers so often came true.

Supposing she'd pray and God granted her this,

What in the world would we do?

And then I looked down at my own nimble feet

And my hands that were growing so strong.

And I thought, "Why I'll lend them to Mom for the day;

I'm sure it would help her along."

So I rushed to the house and burst in the door,

Hoping I'd get there first.

For you know how God is: He doesn't delay,

And I was fearing the worst.

She was upstairs when I loudly called,

"Oh, Mom, don't pray anymore!

My hands and my feet are yours for today;

Please be the same as before!"

I ran breathlessly and we met with a bump,  
Right at the top of the stairs,  
And she hugged me and said, "I'm so glad you've come;  
The Lord surely answered my prayers."

I looked at her closely and counted her feet;  
Her hands also numbered just two.  
But I sure felt relieved when she answered my glance,  
"He provided by sending me you!"

So I hugged her once more and ever since then,  
Before I run out to play,  
I ask with a grin that she understands,  
"Any hands, any feet for today?"

Author unknown

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## PROFIT OR LOSS

What will it profit, when life here is o'er  
Though great worldly wisdom I gain,  
If, seeking knowledge-- I utterly fail  
The wisdom of God to obtain?

What will it profit, when life here is o'er  
Though gathering riches and fame,  
If gaining the world--I lose my own soul  
And in Heaven unknown is my name?

What will it profit, when life here is o'er  
Though earth's farthest corners I see,  
If, going my way, and doing my will  
I miss what His love planned for me?

What will it profit, when life here is o'er  
Though earth's fleeting love has been mine,  
If, seeking its gifts--I fail to secure  
The riches of God's love divine?

What will it profit? My soul, stop and think  
What balance that day will declare!  
Life's record laid bare--will gain turn to loss,  
And leave me at last to despair?

By Grace E. Troy from *The Pearl of Great Price*

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## A GODLY HOME

*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*

Where there *is* a vision, the people prosper. With these truths in mind, consider rearing our children--training a godly family. As we celebrate Father's Day, we are thankful for our good fathers. But we are challenged at the condition of our world. What we see reflects the nurturing of our children--or lack of it.

What is our vision for our families? Do we assume that all will be well, that God's grace will automatically convert our children and make our homes godly? If this is true, why is there a problem? When all is done, we will certainly say that we could not have succeeded but by the grace of God. But does this mean we don't need a vision--that we can relax and be unconcerned about training?

"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Most of the translations I have use the same term: "bring them up." This of course means raise them or rear them. But I see also the meaning: to expect them to come up to where you are as parents. In a very real sense, when people see your family, they see you.

Is our vision for our family producing godly children? Psalm 112:1,2 tells us when we fear the Lord and delight greatly in His commandments, our seed will be mighty, and "The generation of the upright shall be blessed."

Psalm 144:12 pictures our sons as plants grown up in their youth and our daughters "as corner stones polished after the



similitude of a palace." These comparisons show beauty and usefulness. Is this our vision? Do we get the picture?

We need to have our priorities in the right place. Bringing up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord should be on top. It's hard to understand one who would be too busy to train his children for the Lord. To work with your children makes sense if it is possible. But children also need Bible teaching, singing inspiring songs, practice in praise and giving good answers.

Example is a great part of training. If we are enthused about church services, attending Bible studies, singings, and school devotions, be sure your children will also be excited about these activities. If we are careless or unconcerned, that will also be reflected in our children.

I'm sure our desire is for a godly family. If we are training in God's fear and admonition, good results follow. Our children will respect their teachers, ministers, and older people. But it must start at home. **The church and school can reinforce, but if respect and godly training does not happen at home--sorry, we have failed.** Respect is one of the evidences of success.

More beautiful pictures of godly homes come in Psalm 127 and 128. Here the children are as arrows in the hand of a mighty man. They are "like olive plants round about thy table." Olives were valuable for food and for useful oil. Children are like olive plants that can grow up and bear fruit.

We need God's help in building our homes. Psalm 127:1: "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. . ." We don't have to drift with the world. God provides a better way. Our local newspaper ran articles claiming that spanking a child was hindering to his emotional and intellectual growth. The Bible says it will deliver his soul from hell. (Proverbs 23:13,14) It also says that if we spare the rod, we

hate our son, (Proverbs 13:24) This gives no excuse for cruelty, but certainly challenges us to train for a godly family.

If we really have the vision of a godly home, we will do whatever it takes to attain it. Dear Brethren and Sisters, let us not fail in this responsibility. We have one opportunity. The results are God's glory and a testimony to a world that is losing the values attainable to all. We must begin now. One good start is to have family devotions each evening (and/or morning). Children actually enjoy Bible verses, songs, and structured time with their family. Let them see God working in your life and theirs. --L.C.

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### IN HIS DAD'S STEPS

I watched him playing around my door,  
My neighbor's little boy of four.  
I wondered why a child would choose  
To wear his dad's old worn-out shoes.  
I saw him try with all his might  
To make the laces snug and tight.  
I smiled to see him walk and then  
He'd only step right out again.  
I heard him say, his voice so glad:  
"I want to be just like my dad."  
I hope his dad his steps would choose  
Safe for his son to wear his shoes.  
And then a shout and a cry of joy,  
A "Hello dad!" and a "Hi-ya boy!"  
They walked along in measured stride,  
Each face aglow with love and pride.  
"What have you done today, my lad?"  
"I tried to wear your old shoes, Dad.  
They're big, but when I'm a man

I'll wear your shoes, I know I can."  
They stopped and stood there hand in hand  
He saw his son's tracks in the sand  
His words--a prayer--came back to me,  
"Lord, let my steps lead him to Thee!"  
From Scrapbook of Ideas #3  
Vera Overholt

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### LET JESUS INTO YOUR HEART

I have been wanting to share some things I have learned with the children. Then I thought of lessons to tell the youth and other things for the parents. So I will combine it all and trust it will reach every one's heart.

I am going to take you again to visit with me as I care for a woman with Alzheimer's. I could say I will take you with me to work, but I don't think about it as work. It is serving and caring for someone else when so often we would rather someone would care for *me*.

That makes me think about my evening last night. The children can go with me as we share our evening together. Then you can come along with me to work. . .woops. . . I mean caring. (The rest of you can listen in, too.)

I had three grandsons sharing the afternoon with me. I asked them if they would like to put a puzzle together. After playing other games awhile, they decided to do puzzles. They each wanted to do their own puzzle. The oldest one put his on one end of the kitchen table and was doing well by himself. The second one needed some help, so we put his on the other end of the table. I helped him awhile until he could finish on his own. The youngest grandson wanted to do one too, but the table was full so we got down on the floor.

One of the other boys said, "Grandma, doesn't it hurt to sit on the floor?" (It touched my heart that he cared.)

I answered him, "Yes, it does. It isn't very comfortable."

Then he said, "Why are you doing it?"

I told him that we all need to think about the other person and how we can make them happy. This could be our brothers, sisters, friends, or even Mommy.

Now children, come along as we go to care for a woman with Alzheimer's. When a person gets Alzheimer's, that means part of his brain cells have died so they can't remember some things. (Other things they remember very well.) So if you children have a grandfather who can't remember very well, then you know they need special understanding from you because they can't understand right anymore.

You young folks and older ones can listen in as I talk to the children because often we don't understand how to really relate to someone who has dead brain cells.

To the children: I want to share how it works when part of your brain cells die. The doctors say that we lose our short term memory first. So what we just do, we forget. But we remember things from long ago.

When I am caring for my lady, and we are ready to eat, I ask her if she wants to pray. She says "yes," and she always starts out with, "Our dear heavenly Father." Then the rest of what she says doesn't make sense. But she knows she has a "dear" father who hears her. So do you children know what I am going to tell you? While you are young and still have all your mind, learn all you can. Read your Bible and willingly store lots of verses in your long term memory. Learn that you have a dear Father that hears everything you talk to Him about. He even sees into your heart and knows what you don't say. Then after you have all these good things stored in your mind and you get old, then all that will be from long ago, and it will



be what you remember. (I can't promise you will remember it all.)

Now I will share with the young people, and if the children want to listen in, that's OK. You may be old enough to understand. I will share another story with you. I was with the woman I care for and Everett was eating supper with us. She decided she wasn't going to eat all of her supper as she needed to save it for the children. But Everett and I went on eating, and she got mad at Everett because he ate it *all*. The next day she was still mad at him. (That time she remembered.) She would not sit down at the table and eat if "he" was going to eat. So he moved his plate and ate in the kitchen where she couldn't see him. Then I asked her to pray, and she cried and said, "Oh, Father forgive me. I am so sorry." (But she was still mad all that day.)

To the young who are just starting their Christian walk: Learn while you are young that you have a "Dear Heavenly Father" that you can always go to. He will always be there for you to encourage you in the right way. He forgives when we make mistakes. Let Him into your heart.

My heart's desire for each of you, from the oldest to the youngest, is that you learn to know your dear heavenly Father. I mean to know and feel Him in your heart.

I grew up not learning about things when I was young. Oh yes, I can quote some verses and even know where some are. I know things in my head; I can do good and look good just like the ministers said, but it was only four years ago that I got all the information from my head into my heart.

We do need to obey our parents as young children. But when we accept Jesus into our hearts, we need to learn how to go to Him and hear His voice. I'm sure you all think you know that and do it. One test to know for sure is to ask your heart (not your head!), am I doing this because everyone will know and I want to look good? Or do we think: Jesus sees my heart

and I want to please Him. It is very serious to just be living as we feel those around us want us to do and never ask Jesus what He wants of us.

If you need the testimony of someone who did that, I can tell you that it does not bring peace into your heart, I *know* as I lived that way for too many years, but I didn't know it and you perhaps don't know it either. But I am challenging you to search your heart, not your head, and see what is there. We are praying for each of you, that your dear heavenly Father will speak peace to your heart.

Our hearts and prayers are with you,  
Nancy Oyler (Everett too!) Goshen, Indiana

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### COME, O THOU TRAVELER UNKNOWN

Come, O Thou Traveler unknown,  
Whom still I hold, but cannot see!  
My company before is gone,  
And I am left alone with Thee;  
With Thee all night I mean to stay,  
And wrestle till the break of day.

I need not tell Thee who I am,  
My misery and sin declare;  
Thyself hast called me by my name,  
Look on Thy hands and read it there;  
But who, I ask Thee, who art Thou?  
Tell me Thy name and tell me now.

In vain Thou strugglest to get free,  
I never will unloose my hold!  
Art Thou the Man that died for me?  
The secret of Thy love unfold;

Wrestling, I will not let Thee go  
Till I Thy name, Thy nature know.

Wilt Thou not yet to me reveal  
Thy new, unutterable Name?  
Tell me, I still beseech Thee, tell;  
To know it now resolved I am;  
Wrestling, I will not let Thee go  
Till I Thy Name, Thy nature know.

'Tis all in vain to hold Thy tongue  
O touch the hollow of my thigh;  
Though every sinew be unstrung,  
Out of my arms Thou shalt not fly;  
Wrestling I will not let Thee go  
Till I Thy name, Thy nature know.

What though my shrinking flesh complain  
And murmur to contend do long?  
I rise superior to my pain,  
When I am weak, then I am strong,  
And when my all of strength shall fail,  
I shall with the God-man prevail.

My strength is gone, my nature dies,  
I sink beneath Thy weighty hand,  
Faint to revive, and fall to rise;  
I fall, and yet by faith I stand;  
I stand and will not let Thee go  
Till I Thy Name, Thy nature know.

Yield to me now, for I am weak,  
But confident in self-despair;  
Speak to my heart, in blessings speak,

Be conquered by my instant prayer;  
Speak, or Thou never hence shalt move,  
And tell me if Thy Name is Love.

'Tis love! 'tis love! Thou diedst for me!  
I hear Thy whisper in my heart;  
The morning breaks, the shadows flee,  
Pure, universal love Thou art;  
To me, to all, Thy bowels move;  
Thy nature and Thy Name is Love.

My prayer hath power with God; the grace  
Unspeakable I now receive;  
Through faith I see Thee face to face,  
I see Thee face to face, and live!  
In vain I have not wept and strove;  
Thy nature and Thy Name is Love.

The Sun of righteousness on me  
Hath rose with healing in His wings,  
Withered my nature's strength; from Thee  
My soul its life and succor brings;  
My help is all laid up above;  
Thy nature and Thy Name is Love.

Contented now upon my thigh  
I halt, till life's short journey end;  
All helplessness, all weakness I  
On Thee alone for strength depend  
Nor have I power from Thee to move:  
Thy nature and Thy Name is Love.

Lame as I am, I take the prey,  
Hell, earth, and sin, with ease o'ercome;



I leap for joy, pursue my way,  
And as a bounding hart fly home,  
Through all eternity to prove  
Thy nature and Thy Name is Love.

By Charles Wesley  
Selected by Lloyd Wagner

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### BAPTISMS

Teresa Miller	Bourbon, Indiana	May 16
Aden Zimmerman	Tunas, Missouri	May 21
Hannah Albers	Harrison, Arkansas	May 30

May these dear new members of Christ's body be faithful  
and useful in His kingdom.

### BIRTH

✓ Cover - A son, Ethan Mitchell, born May 4 to Daniel and Anna  
Marie Cover of Tuolumne, California.

### CORRECTIONS

✓ In the May issue, the poem "Trials" credited to Ernest J.  
Sauder was likely written by someone else.

Matthew Martin's cell phone: (937) 564-2794

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Conversion is not the smooth, easygoing process some men  
seem to think. . . It is wounding work, this breaking of the  
hearts, but without wounding, there is no saving.

John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim's Progress*  
From *Pulpit Helps*

## HEAD OF THE HOME

As head of the home, Father leadership brings,  
With his family he prays, reads the Bible and sings;  
He works so his family is sheltered and fed,  
He's head of the home, and the Lord is his Head.

Miriam Sauder Brechbill

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## FOR YOUTH

Dear Princess,

And now let me address a topic which I just know will capture your attention and hold you in spellbound fascination. It is that topic of how young ladies can be beautiful. Isn't that a perfectly grand subject? I guess right now I can't help wanting this wonderful young man who has become so interested in me, to think I am beautiful. But I look in the mirror and I despair. My hair just isn't the most attractive, and my poor face--well, it has been worse, and I never realized how crooked my teeth were, and my clothes just wouldn't win the prize for loveliness.

I read a verse in Psalm 45:11 that stood out to me. "The king will greatly desire your beauty." This is sort of a love Psalm. (Ever heard of such a thing?) And I wondered if my "king" (Sarah called Abraham "lord.") would desire my beauty. And then I wondered what makes a young woman beautiful? "Beauty is vain" offered a clue, and "Beauty is as beauty does," came to mind. And I began to leaf through a few places in my Bible where it talks about beautiful women, or adornment. Ever noticed that most, if not all, of the women who the Bible says were of a beautiful countenance, also had a beautiful character (ie. Rebekah, Abigail, Esther, Sarah). And many

others, unmentioned as to looks, have left an unmistakable beautiful impression in our minds (Ruth, Hannah, Mary).

The lover of his sweetheart in Solomon's love song wrote, "Sweet is your voice, and your countenance (face) is lovely (comely)." And, "Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee." (2:14, etc. NKJ and KJV mixed up) But not all young ladies have lovely faces or are "without spot." Oh *my* poor face!!! And some of us are too skinny or too fat. . .

The world likes to take its jewels, perfumes, and elegant array to try to make itself beautiful. It loves its gold and pearls, it rubies, its myrrh, frankincense, spikenard, and even lilies of the field. . . as Solomon writes. But the King that is looking for *beauty* turns away, I think, and the prince that a *princess* would want is not at all impressed.

God has told His princesses with what adornments they may adorn themselves if they desire a *good* king to desire their beauty. So, dear princesses, gather yourselves gold--but let it be the gold of graciousness, goodness, gentleness, gratitude, good works, and gladness. Adorn yourselves with pearls--the ones of great price--purity, propriety, peaceableness. Add to your pearls the rubies of righteousness, responsibility, right discernment, and a good reputation.

Then add the touch of various perfumes. For myrrh, let there be meekness, mercy, and modesty. For frankincense, faith, the fear of the Lord, and faithfulness. For spikenard, add dashes of sweetness, sincerity, submission, sobriety (but not without smiles), strength (of character as well as of arm) and skill in all homemaking and womanly duties.

And twine your chain of lilies to crown your head, but let every lily be a loving word or deed.

Thus adorned, the homeliest maiden on earth can become a princess whose beauty the King (and all His true princes) shall desire. And so I am trying to gather my jewels and my spices and perfumes and lilies together for when my prince comes to

meet me, and I thought I would encourage you to keep doing the same, too.

--From a letter, author unknown

Selected by Sarah Martin

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### Muscles Like Samson's

"Look at my muscles," said young Bennie at the breakfast table. He pushed his shirt sleeve way up above his elbow, made a fist, and bent his arm to make his muscle stand up.

"It doesn't look very big to me," Artie, his older brother, answered. "Look at mine."

"Wonder how big Samson's muscles were," Bennie said, "He was probably the man with the biggest muscles ever."

"Well, boys," Dad began. "After we're done eating, I'll read about Samson from the Bible. Then we'll talk about Samson's muscles and his strength."

When everyone had finished eating, Dad turned in the Bible to Judges. He read chapters 13, 14, and 15. It took awhile, but Artie and Bennie were listening closely. When Dad finished reading, Artie spoke up.

"He took hold of a lion with his bare hands and killed it! Just tore him apart!"

"And, he pulled the city gates loose and carried them up a hill," said Bennie. "He killed thirty men. He caught 300 foxes and tied their tails together with fire, too."

"Yes, and he killed a bunch more Philistines," Artie added.

"Then what?" Dad prompted.

"Oh, they tied him all up with two cords, but he broke them and got loose!" Bennie said.



"And then he killed 1,000 people with an old jawbone." Artie remembered. "Three times, he got away from the Philistines when Delilah tried to find out why he was so strong. What all did she tie him up with, Dad?"

"First it was seven green withs, or new, wet cords that were very strong," Dad answered. "Then it was new ropes that had never been used. And last of all, she took his long hair and wove it on the loom, like she'd weave a rug. But he just took part of the loom with him when he escaped that time."

"What was the last thing he did with mighty strength?" Dad asked.

"He pulled a great big building down!" Bennie answered.

"He just took hold of the two posts and bent over, making them bend and break," Artie added.

"Does it say anywhere that Samson had big muscles?" Dad asked smiling.

"I-I don't remember that you read anything about muscles," Bennie answered.

"What was the secret of his strength?" Dad asked.

"He had long hair, but when it was cut off, he wasn't strong anymore. How could long hair make him strong, Dad?" Artie wondered.

"In verse 25 of the first chapter I read, it says, 'And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times.' Just before he killed the lion, it says, 'And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him.' Another time it says, 'And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him.' Just before he pulled down the house of the god Dagon, Samson prayed for God to strengthen him once more. Where *did* Samson's strength come from?"

"From God!" Bennie shouted.

"God gave it to him," Artie stated firmly.

"That's right," Dad agreed. "But why didn't God give him the strength to get away before the Philistines put his eyes out?" he asked.

Artie and Bennie thought a little bit. "I don't know. Why?" Artie said.

"It was because God had said before Samson was even born that his hair should never be cut. But then Delilah kept asking him the secret of his strength until he finally told her. Then she had his hair cut off while he was sleeping. God was not pleased with that and wouldn't give Samson extra strength until his hair had grown long again. That's when Samson pulled the building down and killed himself, too.

"I guess to get Samson muscles we'll have to do what God wants us to do. Then He'll give us strength when we need it," Artie decided.

Dad smiled and nodded his head. "Time to get to work," he said.

Linda Frick

Gettysburg, Ohio

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# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (1 John 4:14)

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## WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE!

Our Father's wondrous works we see  
In the earth and sea and sky;  
He rules o'er all in majesty,  
From His royal throne on high.

The raging winds and waves are calm,  
When He says to them, "Be still;"  
The heavens praise Him in a psalm,  
And the angels do His will.

He maketh worlds by His command,  
Weighs the mountains great and high;  
He metes the waters in His hand,  
Spans the lofty, starlit sky.

Our God, to save from sin's control,  
Gave His Son a sacrifice;  
His grace, abounding in the soul,  
Makes the earth a paradise.

Refrain;

What a mighty God we serve!  
Reigning now above on His throne of love,  
What a mighty God we serve!

--Clara M. Brooks

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## WHERE SHALL WE GO?

Many of His disciples left. Jesus had said plainly, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." His words seemed hard to them. How? When? Why? Jesus said to the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" Peter answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus' question comes also to us today. Will we go away? Some are leaving the Savior. Where do they go? What is the appeal that would take us from "so great salvation"?

Can we go to the world? Is there satisfaction or hope there? John evaluates this option for us: "All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

The entertainment of the world has tremendous appeal because so much is aimed to please our old nature. Its heros are heaped with honor. They are praised for their beautiful appearance (which is really a gift of God) and for acting out unrealistic scenes so realistically. This choice comes with a high cost and false values.

One might choose to go away to the world of wealth, a possibility in our affluent country. The appeal here is self-sufficiency, independence. Who likes to be dependent on others? *I will work for my living--make my own way.* Even rich men counsel against making fortune your goal. It does not bring happiness. Billionaire Bill Gates advises young people:



*You will not make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. Be content with a simple job like "flipping burgers." Your grandparents called it opportunity. TV is not real life.*

Another choice is the world of patriotism and politics. Here we find the appeal of "duty." Some shame us: "Christians should get in and work and vote for righteous government." It *sounds* good but does not confess that we are pilgrims and strangers-- Christians are in a different kingdom not of the world. If we "ask not what our country can do for us but what we can do for our country," our answer is, in our patriotism we pray for our country and its leaders, pay our country's taxes and obey its laws. Really, praying is better than voting.

Part of their patriotism is the military for young men. Fallen soldiers are honored more than others, and they should be praised by those whose hope is here--whose freedom is dependant upon victory in war. They have "made the supreme sacrifice for their country." How much more do we Christians owe our Savior for dying to free us from the shackles of sin! Our perspective is so distorted by the favors we enjoy: prosperity, freedom, health care. We should be grateful for these blessings, but also be ready to give it all up if God should again allow persecution and Christian martyrdoms.

We could go away from Christ to a false world of sports. The appeal is fame due to strength and skill in the games. Young people like to play, and it is good to develop healthy bodies and learn teamwork. But let us not be so involved that sports takes the place of Christian service. I fear that sports heroes are honored more than Christian men of God: Peter, Paul, John, or modern servants of Christ. One baseball hero in his 90's is now being recognized more than when he was playing. His uniform number is set apart--hallowed: no player will use it again.

Consider other false choices offered by the deceiver. Drugs have their appeal and now the almost miraculous electronics.

Jesus told the church at Philadelphia, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." (Rev. 3:11)

Peter said, "Where can we go?" We ask that today. One hymn replies: Hallelujah! I have found Him  
Whom my soul so long has craved!  
Jesus satisfies my longings;  
Through His blood I now am saved.

Let us not go away but draw near. When we can say with Peter, "We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God," we have value the world can never offer. --L.C.

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### THE CHRISTIAN'S ALTAR

"We have an altar whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle." --Hebrews 13:10

This is the last of the symbolical teachings in the book of Hebrews. The application is both for the individual Christian and the assembly of saints. The rite of burning sacrificial animals outside the camp of Israel is used as an object lesson.

Although temple worship ceased at the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., its symbolism has much to teach us of our wonderful Lord and of His great love for us.

In verse 11 the writer of Hebrews gives us this word picture: "For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin are burned without the camp." This is taken from Exodus 29:14 and Leviticus 4:12.

"Without the camp" is described as a "clean place" where the ashes are poured out. It preceded the burnt offering on the brazen altar of the tabernacle.

God's worshipper was taught both the high cost of sin and its sinfulness. Bullocks were so much live money always

available. This one was the sin offering for the sinning one. Its being burnt outside the camp told all that sin defiles the camp of the saints. This truth is both for the individual and the assembly. Man's sin always separates him from God; and more, that forgiveness of sin must be in God's way.

Our attention here is drawn to Jesus' suffering outside the gate of Jerusalem. He who knew no sin, became sin for us. In our author's day the cross was not an ensign on the top of a church nor a small one on a necklace. It was still a thing of horror. Its terror was used by the Romans to terrify their subject peoples into subjection. The fanatically religious Jews wanted Jesus crucified outside their city. They wanted no defilement of crucified bodies in the city at the Passover time. Unknowingly they fulfilled the type of the sin offering in causing the death of Jesus "outside the camp."

Outside the camp of Israel the ashes of the bullock were added to the refuse already there. It had lived for no other purpose than to bear man's sin. It died unwanted, unloved, a thing of abhorrence and shame. It was to be entirely forgotten in the ash heap.

Just so died Jesus, our sin bearer. The shame and infamy of His death should break this proud heart in contrition as I realize it was my sin that nailed Him to the cross. But it was not the nails that held Him there. He was tied to His cross by eternal bonds of love for sinful man.

But there was a remembrance in its blood and in its fat. The "life is in the blood," and "without the shedding of blood there is no remission." The blood was carried to the tabernacle and all of it poured out at the bottom of the altar. This brazen altar speaks of the **righteous judgment of God**. The priest then dipped his finger in the blood and applied it to the horns of the altar. Horns speak of power. Here we see the blood appealing to the power of God.



Then the fat was burned on the altar. The fat speaks of the richness of its life. It is a type of the full, sinless life of our Saviour that Jesus offered first in ministry and then in atonement for man's sin.

As noted elsewhere, the great center of the Hebrew epistle is to show the Saviour's blood being received as a sprinkling of the mercy seat in Heaven as an atonement; also the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ. Heb. 13:12: "Wherefore Jesus also that he might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate."

Here outside the temple and the holy city, the Christian altar was established. Its symbolism points to the same Saviour as did the Old Testament sacrifices. Here began the partaking of the symbolic emblems of the Saviour's flesh and blood. It is ever to be done in remembrance of Him.

Isaiah 53:4: "Surely he has borne our sins and carried our sorrows. Yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted." Heb. 13:13: "Let us go forth, therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach."

The first Jewish Christian evangelists followed the procedure of going to the Jewish communities "first" with the Gospel. In fact, the Jewish synagogue system provided a bridge over which the Gospel traveled to the world. Christian converts among them were soon cast out of home and synagogue. Many knew the reproach of Christ "outside the gate." There was no place for them but at the Christian altar.

I mention the Lord's table here because of its great importance. Here was true fellowship in praise and prayer. Here Jesus is ever the Host of His Table. Here each can read his pardon from sin. Here is the true testimony of a dying Saviour and resurrected Lord. Here the Lord verified His promise, "I am with you always." The outcast convert knew an inner peace and joy unknown before.



Of course the Christian altar is not confined to the assembly but as expressed in an old hymn:

Where e'er I have a tent  
Thy altar will I raise,  
And thither my oblation bring  
In humble prayer and praise.

We have now proceeded with the ancient tabernacle priest from the brazen altar (and if I may so say, stopping for cleansing at the brazen laver of self judgment and inner cleansing of doings and ways) to the golden altar of incense. Here lighted by the seven-fold lamp stand and on the shewbread of God's word, we may bring as priests of God, our offering, a sacrifice to God. Rom. 12:1: "I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Heb. 13:15, 16: "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise **continually**, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks in his name." But to do good and communicate forget not for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

The believing heart sees in the outward symbols the inner work of the Holy Spirit of God. Unhappily, I think, some think and teach to dispose of outward symbols when we have the inner reality. This is a short-sighted view. These outward symbols were established by Christ as an expression of faith and obedience. They ever serve as true object lessons for teaching and confirmation of young and old Christians. The symbol of the Lamb is carried through the Revelation as a name of our Lord.

In the blessings of the Lord's table we might well consider Neh. 8:10: "Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions to them for whom nothing is prepared, for the day is holy unto our Lord, neither be ye sorry, *For the joy of the Lord is your strength.*

James D. Cover

## HIS FOUNDATION IS IN THE HOLY MOUNTAINS

Psalm 87:1

Art thou weary, fellow pilgrim;  
Is the way confused and dim?  
Do you question what is virtue?  
Will a certain action hurt you?

Do earth's pleasures strongly pull you,  
Though you strive to walk so true?  
Seek your guidance from the Lord;  
Trust each promise in His Word.

Look not to the world for pleasure  
For its good times do not measure;  
To the joy of Christian living  
And the peace that God is giving.

His foundation is in Jesus' way;  
His holy mountains do not sway;  
His every deed is true and pure.  
He will give you guidance sure.

Sarah Martin, 1990

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I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT YOU

Wouldn't this old world be better  
If the folks we meet would say,  
"I know something good about you,"  
And then treat us just that way!

Wouldn't it be fine and dandy  
If each hand-clasp warm and true,

Carried with it this assurance:  
"I know something good about you!"

Wouldn't things here be more pleasant  
If the good that's in us all  
Were the only things about us  
That folks bothered to recall!

Wouldn't life be more happy  
If we'd praise the good we see,  
For there's such a lot of goodness  
In the worst of you and me!

Wouldn't it be nice to practice  
This fine way of thinking, too:  
"You know something good about me;  
I know something good about you."

Selected by Larry and Liana Cable

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## PEOPLE OF THE LIVING GOD

People of the living God,  
I have sought the world around  
Paths of sin and sorrow trod,  
Peace and comfort nowhere found  
Now to you my spirit turns,  
Turns a fugitive unblest;  
Brethren, where your altar burns,  
Oh, receive me into rest.

Lonely I no longer roam  
Like the cloud, the wind, the wave;

Where you dwell shall be my home  
Where you die shall be my grave;  
Mine the God whom you adore;  
Your Redeemer shall be mine;  
Earth can fill my soul no more,  
Every idol I resign.

Tell me not of gain and loss,  
Ease, enjoyment, pomp, and power;  
Welcome poverty and cross,  
Shame, reproach, affliction's hour.  
"Follow Me," I know Thy voice;  
Jesus, Lord, Thy steps I see;  
Now I take Thy yoke by choice,  
Light Thy burden now to me.

James Montgomery, 1829 (1771-1854)

*From The Christian Hymnary*

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## BIRTHS

Kreider - A son, Declan Niall, born June 9 to Jason and Heather Kreider of Greenville, Ohio.

Cable - A son, Ivan David, born June 26 to Larry and Liana Cable of Dayton, Ohio.

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## ADDRESS CHANGE

Karin Wagner

P.O. Box 101  
Walnut Creek, OH 44687  
(Summer of 2010 only)



## OBITUARIES

**Andrew Loren Lavy** died Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 3:33 p.m. at his residence.

He was born February 6, 1929, in Darke County, OH, to the late Solomon and Margaret Mote Lavy. His marriage was to Mary Ellen Morris at her parents' farm in Carroll County, IN, on February 6, 1949, and she survives.

He attended the former Gettysburg High School in Darke County, OH. He worked as a carpenter for Raymond Wagoner Construction, Camden, for 20 years; then was self-employed doing carpentry for 20 years. He and his wife had Lavy Orchard for 40 years, and he farmed in Carroll County.

He accepted the Lord and was baptized as a young man, looking forward to a better world. God in His mercy has provided a way we might all meet again some glorious day. He was a member of the Living Hope Fellowship in Lafayette. He enjoyed caring and growing his orchard, all the hired help that worked for him and his wife, and the many customers he dealt with over the 40 years of business.

Surviving is his wife, Mary Ellen Lavy; 3 sons, Keith and Claudia Lavy, Troy OH, Wayne and Cheryl Lavy, Greenville, OH, and Kenneth and Tammi Lavy, Camden, IN; 3 sisters, Elizabeth Garber of Lobelville, TN, and twin sisters Ruth Flora of Arcanum, OH, and Rhoda Millyard of Brookville, OH. Also surviving are 6 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by 3 sisters, an infant brother, and 3 adult brothers.

Funeral services were held Sunday, May 30, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Camden, Indiana. Officiating were David Perry and Denver Brumbaugh. Burial was at Musselman Cemetery, Camden, Indiana.

**Lulu Carrie Mohler**, oldest daughter of John and Sarah Garber, was born on August 21, 1917, at Peru, Indiana. She departed this life to be with her Lord on May 27, 2010, at Bethany Home Society, Ripon, California, at the age of 92 years, 9 months, and 6 days.

Lulu lived her first six years in a house at her great-grandparents, Steven and Elizabeth Cripe, near Peru, Indiana. Later her parents moved to a farm nearby. She graduated from Bunker Hill High School in 1936.

Jacob Mohler and Lulu Garber were united in marriage on October 2, 1937, near Flora, Indiana, at the home of her grandparents, John and Ann Flora. They were baptized into Jesus Christ, becoming members of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church on August 21, 1938, Lulu's 21st birthday.

After living a short time in the Peru, Indiana area, they moved to the Flora, Indiana area. Jacob was a self-employed farmer, and Lulu found joy in being a mother to her daughter Phyllis and a home-maker. She also did housework for other families.

They moved to Modesto, California in 1977, to live near their daughter and son-in-law and grandchildren. Lulu and Jacob took many trips back and forth from California, sight-seeing all the way. They also spent several summers at Dardanelles Campground, staying for three months, coming home week-ends to attend church services. Jacob would fish while Lulu collected rocks. Lulu loved the ocean and the short trips they made to Monterey and Pismo Beach. They spent many happy times with family and Christian brothers and sisters enjoying God's creation.

Lulu liked writing letters to her family and friends back in Indiana. This and sending get-well and birthday cards became a ministry for her as she maintained her friendships. Her letters and cards were a blessing to many people throughout the years.

Due to declining health, she and Jacob moved to Park View Christian Estates in Modesto in 2001. He preceded her in death on August 3, 2005. Unable to live alone, she was moved to Bethany Home Society in Ripon, California.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Jacob; her parents; brothers Dale and Vern Garber; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Clarence and Sarah Mohler; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Harry and Dora Mohler; and brother-in-law Herman Flora.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Neal and Phyllis Basore; four grandchildren: Cheryl Flory, Connie Chipponeri, Carla Denlinger, and Curtis Basore; 14 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild; one sister: Mina Miller; sister-in-law Catherine Flora; and sister-in-law Joan Garber.

Funeral services were held June 3, 2010, at the Wood Colony Cemetery, near Modesto. Elder Levi Bowman officiated, taking for a text "the Resurrection." The song service was led by Elder Lloyd Wagner, using hymns: "How Great Thou Art," "To God Be the Glory," "Amazing Grace," "My Savior's Love," and "He Leadeth Me," while the grave was being filled.

ALWAYS REMEMBERED, FOREVER LOVED.

The Family

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### ARE WE TRUE JOYFUL CHRISTIANS?

". . .believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." (I Peter 1:8). How can we describe this degree of joy with mere words? Based on this vivid, inspired description, we can see that this sort of joy was experienced by the obedient first-century Christians. Our God is not dead and unresponsive! The Bible describes Him as one that will ". . .show me the path



of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalm 16:11) If this is the God of Christians, naturally His worshipers inherit this contagious, heavenly joy.

On the other hand, Solomon describes the joy of the wicked like a crackling of thorns under a pot. (Ecclesiastes 7:6) Yet sad to say, thousands of nominal Christians seem to be attracted to this crackling kind of joy. Look at the world and many churches today--entertainment, internet, fashion, sports, pleasures, luxuries, play mentality and singing modern type tones that take away the soul searching message of a Scriptural song, have an appeal that competes with true Christian joy. If a Christian does not have a tight enough grip on Christ and His Word, he will eventually seek the world's joy rather than spiritual joy. Heavenly joy is for holy hearts, and worldly hearts are for carnal pleasure. More for the world and less for Jesus. "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." (Isaiah 58:1)

By Martin M. Nolt in *The Budget*

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## FOR YOUTH

### Splash of Life

Crash! Another big wave rolls into the solid rock on the beach! The water sprays into the air, forty feet or higher. It descends on the flourishing seaweed and cascades over the rocks back into the Pacific.

How fascinating! and to think this is happening and has happened every ten seconds for almost 6,000 years with a steady rhythm and yet not really any pattern. I can only think of God's unchangeableness and power. The psalmist says, "He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses." (Psalm 33:7)



This tremendous body of salt water gives life. As I watched the waves thundering against the rock that I was sitting on, I saw all kinds of life. Mussels, seaweed, starfish, and countless other creatures were clinging to the rocks right on the surf line, and up on top of the rock there were several kinds of moss and algae. Then I looked about fifteen feet inland where the surf did not reach with the exception of the extremely high tides, and all I saw was dry, bare rocks--nothing growing there.

Here is room to do some comparing. Acts 17:28 says, "For in him we live and move and have our being. . ." We can all live and grow if we are planted close enough to Jesus to receive a splash of His life. And the closer we live to Him, the more we grow and thrive. Notice how the seaweed and mussels grow where they can receive a big splash of water every time a wave comes in, and the moss and algae plants that will do with less water are found at the outer edge of the wave's splash. I believe we all want to thrive and grow to be strong plants for Christ. Just take it from nature: The closer we can get to the Source of Life, the more life we will have.

Peter Cover, Tuolumne, California

Reprinted from *The Pilgrim* July, 1988

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### WHICH LOVED BEST?

"I love you, Mother," said little John;  
Then forgetting his work, his cap went on,  
And he was off to the garden swing,  
And left her the water and wood to bring.

"I love you, Mother," said rosy Nell--  
"I love you better than tongue can tell;"

Then she teased and pouted full half the day  
Till her mother rejoiced when she went to play.

"I love you, Mother," said little Fan;  
"Today I'll help you all I can;  
How glad I am that school doesn't keep!"  
So she rocked the babe till it fell asleep.

Then, stepping softly, she fetched the broom,  
And swept the floor and tidied the room;  
Busy and happy all day was she,  
Helpful and happy as child could be.

"I love you, Mother," again they said,  
Three little children going to bed;  
How do you think that mother guessed  
Which of them really loved her best?

Joy Allison (Mary A. Cragin)  
From *Poems for Memorization*

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## GO LABOR ON

Go, labor on; spend and be spent,  
Thy joy to do the Father's will;  
It is the way the Master went;  
Should not the servant tread it still?

Go, labor on; 'tis not for naught;  
Thy earthly loss is heavenly gain;  
Men heed thee, love thee, praise thee not;  
The Master praises: what are men?

Go, labor on; enough while here  
If He shall praise thee, if He deign  
Thy willing heart to mark and cheer;  
No toil for Him shall be in vain.

Toil on, faint not, keep watch and pray;  
Be wise the erring soul to win;  
Go forth into the world's highway,  
Compel the wanderer to come in.

Toil on, and in thy toil rejoice;  
For toil comes rest, for exile home;  
Soon shalt thou hear the Bridegroom's voice.  
The midnight peal, "Behold, I come."

Horatius Bonar 1843 (1808-1889)

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## THE DOOR WAS SHUT

Yes, the door was shut--closed--final. With our luggage we'd hurried down stairs and up stairs, through crowded corridors and several terminals, dashing breathlessly ahead on moving sidewalks, racing the clock, and now this. Others had been given our seats even though we reached the gate before the announced departure time. Our hearts cried, "Unfair!" but there was no way we could open the door. We were stuck in Chicago O'Hare, and our only alternative was a later connecting flight to San Francisco.

Jesus told the parable of the Kingdom being like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. The five foolish ones took no extra oil, so when their lamps went out, they had to leave and get more. When they returned to go to the marriage, the door was shut. They were too late. Jesus' lesson is this: "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

Jesus says (Luke 13:24), "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." That door will someday be shut, and some will knock and protest: "We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets." Some will claim to be qualified--that they have prophesied in His name, cast out devils, and done many wonderful works. These in Matt. 7:22 were false claims because Jesus will say, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." How then are we qualified? Verse 21 says, ". . .but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." His will includes our seeking and knocking. It is open to all by the blood sacrifice of Jesus on the cross when He said, "It is finished."



As I write this a wild tom turkey has come three times to steal cat food. We chase him away because the turkeys eat our grapes and scare away other pets. At the same time hummingbirds come to their feeder. They are welcome because they do no harm. The hummingbirds can enter the gate of our favor; the turkey cannot. A poor comparison, but God has the right to decide who qualifies and how long there will be opportunity.

God is for us and so patient. Paul writes to Timothy that God "will have all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth." Peter tells us He is longsuffering, "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." And Jesus said in Matt. 18:14: "Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." When the door is closed, it will be right and we will not think "unfair" in our hearts.

Our Lord Jesus promised, "Knock, and it shall be opened unto you," for "to him that knocketh it shall be opened." The time to knock is now. Sometime it will be too late.

There is another door, "the gates of hell." Jesus calls this the wide gate to the broad way leading to destruction. We must choose which door we will enter. The sad part is that many choose the wide gate. However, Jesus promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church.

Revelation 21 describes a beautiful city, the New Jerusalem. It has high walls and twelve gates made of pearl, and those gates are never shut. In old times when walls were for defence, the gates were closed every night. The gates of the New Jerusalem are never shut, "for there shall be no night there."

To enter these gates is an indescribable privilege. Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for His people and that there are many mansions in His Father's house. No earthly activity or desire or attraction--nothing should hinder our entering into that place. Jesus Himself is the door and no man comes to the

Father but by Him. He invites. "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

We might "join a church" or do many good works or even go through the motions of baptism, and these are right. But to know Jesus and enter that door means new life and salvation.

Let us not be late or left behind. --L.C.

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### THE BEST OR THE WORST

I have heard it said that for the believer, this life is as bad as it is going to get; and for the unbeliever, this life is as good as it is going to get. This statement caused me to pause and do some thinking. Do we want the best or the worst? I believe everyone desires the best. God in His love for mankind has given everyone a mind to choose good and shun evil.

My impression of today's society in general is that we have exceeded greed speed in which technology has overtaken our intelligence. Does the world offer the best of the worst, or does it offer the worst of the best? The framers of our National Constitution guaranteed the liberty of each citizen in their pursuit of happiness. This does not mean the pursuit of giddy entertainment and lustful indulgence, but rather to be free to obtain a positive fulfillment in life.

True happiness is only possible with the absence of guilt. This places the unconverted person at enmity with the Gospel, for the Gospel exposes sin and places the unconverted under the cloak of guilt. God's eternal purpose is to have a people to honor and praise Him by reason of love and choice, not from a fear of condemnation if they do not.

We are thankful that God has provided a means whereby everyone can receive the Gospel, experience a changed heart, lay all guilt and sin at the foot of the cross, and allow the Holy Spirit to bring peace and fulfillment to their lives.

God does not want us to just live a life of do's and don'ts. The order in which God wants us to pattern our lives is to put Jesus first, our neighbor (including our family and church members) second, and ourselves third. This is not possible without a converted heart. Earthly pursuits, careers, homes, families, cars, sports, recreation, can all be consistent if our priorities are in order. Jesus instructs us to ". . . seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33)

We encourage everyone to study the Bible. Share the Word with others if possible. Be not deceived by sensational and spurious teachings which play on the emotions. Avoid even the best of the worst, but maintain the quest for the best of the best. "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (I Cor. 1:25)

Joseph E. Wagner  
Modesto, California

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### WHERE THE THREE LITTLE PIGS ARE SAFE

I remember my great-grandmother reading the story of "The Three Little Pigs." In my mind's eye, I still see the illustrations of that first book. There was the page where the three little pigs set off into the big world to seek their fortunes, each waving goodbye to their mother and outfitted with a bundle of belongings tied to the end of a stick. By and by, the first little pig met a peddler with a cartload of straw from whom he bought enough to build himself a house. The second little pig met another peddler with a cartload of sticks from which he purchased enough to build his house. Finally, the third little pig met a peddler with a cartload of bricks. Buying those bricks, the third little pig proceeded to build himself a solid house, quite in contrast to the work of the first two pigs.



Of course, then along came the wolf. To the first little pig he said. "Little Pig, little pig, let me come in!"

Bravely, the little pig countered, "Not by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin!"

"Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in!" roared the wolf, and he proceeded to do just that.

Fortunately, the little pig was blown right to the door of his brother in the house of sticks. The second little pig quickly took his brother in as the wolf approached his house. (*I remember the picture vividly. The faces of two helpless pigs peer out over the flimsy stick gate that served as the door of the second little pig's house as the wolf stands menacingly before them.*) The wolf asked the second little pig to let him come in, and again the second little pig said, "Not by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin." As before, however, a great puff from the wolf annihilated the house, and the pigs are fairly blown to the door of the third little pig who admitted them to the safety of his solid brick house.

This time when the wolf attempted to blow the house in, he failed. He had to give up the huffing, but he wasn't ready to give up on the pigs. Instead, he tried a new tactic. He first invited the little pig to meet him at an apple orchard the next morning at 7:00. The little pig agreed, but he went early, arriving at the apple orchard at 6:00 instead. While he was there, the wolf came. Thinking quickly, the little pig offered to throw an apple down out of the tree to the wolf. When he did so, he threw it very hard so that, as the wolf went to retrieve it, the little pig had time to climb down and run safely home.

The next trick the wolf tried was similar. He invited the little pig to the fair the next morning at 6:00. Again the little pig agreed, and again he went early, arriving at 5:00. He saw the sights and bought a butter churn before he spied the wolf. This time he crawled into the butter churn and rolled downhill



past the unsuspecting wolf to arrive again at the safety of his house.

When the wolf discovered that he had been outwitted again, he vowed he was going to come down the chimney to get rid of the little pig. (*I can still see the darkened form of the wolf standing on the roof of the little pig's house leaning over the chimney as he prepared his attack.*) As the readers of the story know, the quick-thinking little pig inside the house was also preparing for the attack. Just as the wolf came down the chimney, the little pig removed the lid from the kettle there, and the wolf fell **kersplash** into the boiling water, and the little pig quickly put the lid back on the kettle. That was the end of the big, bad wolf, and **the three little pigs lived happily ever after.**

Over the years, I have seen various versions of the story of "The Three Little Pigs." In some, the first two little pigs are actually eaten by the wolf who catches them in their folly. In others, such as the version to which I was first introduced, the first two little pigs just barely escape to the safety of their wise brother's house, and the story ends with the scene of a fireplace in which a wolf's tail and possibly his ears are sticking out from beneath the kettle lid.

A few years ago, however, my wife found a version of the story that I had never seen before. In some ways, I wasn't particularly impressed with the book. The illustrations of the characters, for example, disappointed me. The wolf wasn't nearly as scary-looking as I remembered him to be in that first story my great-grandmother had read to me. Also, I missed the clever wit of the little pig in the apple tree and the butter churn incidents. However, this story did have something that none of the other versions ever had. Instead of the last scene being a wolf on the boil, there was a happy reunion of the three little pigs with their mother after the wolf had been vanquished. They were sitting around a table enjoying a great feast, and

their mother was serving them. This observation gave me an inspiration.

It was about that time that we had three students graduating from our school, so I decided to use the story for their benefit in my end-of-the-year senior address. I told the graduates that they were the three little pigs, and as they graduated from high school, they would be going out into the world to seek their fortunes. They would decide how they would build their lives.

I Corinthians 3:10-15 has a remarkable Scriptural parallel to the story of the three little pigs. In those verses, Paul makes it clear that he had laid the foundation of Jesus Christ for his followers, but it was up to them how they built thereupon. He listed six types of building materials, three of them durable and lasting, but three of them of a fairly transient nature. Then in verse 13, he writes, *"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it because, it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."*

In the story of the three little pigs, their work was tried by the wolf who came to all three little pigs. He proved that the work of two little pigs was not of sufficient strength of character. The first two little pigs certainly suffered loss, but they were saved by the very breath that blew their houses down! However, when the wolf approached the solid house of the third little pig and tried to gain entry there, his tactics all failed, including his last bold attempt to come down the chimney.

In the story of our lives, the wolf is the devil. We can be sure that the devil will come to try us wherever we are. We don't need to go looking for the devil; he will come looking for us. He overlooks none, howsoever wisely we may be building our spiritual house. He is out to get every one of us. God lets Satan try us, but He actually permits it for our good. Notice I Corinthians 3:15, *"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire."*

The way the third little pig had built his house gave him an obvious advantage in the trials of life. It cannot be denied that those who build their lives with wisdom will escape much trouble. However, there is something in the dealings of the third little pig with the wolf that is not true to life. Here's why I say that. The third little pig was able to outsmart the wolf at every turn. We humans aren't able to do that. No matter how thoroughly trained, how principled, how self-disciplined, how prudently we make all of our major or minor decisions, we are no match for the devil. We need someone bigger than ourselves to look out for us.

For that reason, I found the conclusion of my most recently-discovered version of "The Three Little Pigs" refreshing. I see in that final picture of family reunion one source of strength for the young people among us who are graduating from formal education. Though flush with a measure of academic achievement and anxious to flex their wings of independence, they are still in need of the protection of their spiritual family because there is a wolf out there waiting for them in the world.

By protection of their spiritual family, I am speaking of the security of the bond of the brotherhood. It is one of my greatest concerns that young Christians come to feel a deep heartfelt oneness with their local congregations. **The mortar of a strong brick spiritual house is the love of the brotherhood.** It is the intertwining of feelings that the old have for the spiritual welfare of the young and the appreciative consideration that the young have for the old in response. It is the conviction rooted in the young that they need the church. It is the realization that, if we know what is good for us, we will yield our rights to that of the brethren because what we get in return is something far more life-giving than what we get trying to fend for ourselves in spiritual isolation.

This thing of spiritual isolation really concerns me. Obviously it affects those who do not surrender to the Lordship



of Jesus Christ at all, and it affects those who, for whatever reason, hold themselves aloof from church membership. However, many times church members also live in spiritual isolation. They do not really share with the brethren in a broken, heartfelt way. They hold their true feelings in reserve while outwardly keeping the peace. For various selfish or fearful reasons, they do not feel at one with the brotherhood. Therefore, they do not put their hearts into the brotherhood and remain living instead in a straw house.

But oh! God doesn't want us to live isolated in a flimsy straw house! He wants his children, including the young ones, to be together as a family serving one another in a feast of God's goodness in His strong brick house. There's no place for individualism in Christian community. The devil has us all in his sights, so we need each other to resist him. Why stand aloof from sharing our hearts with our brethren when to do so exposes the devil and gives us the bond of brotherhood? **We need God and we need the brethren.** Oh yes, we want the devil to be defeated, but we will find that when we have God and are truly, deeply one with the brethren we not only will defeat the devil, but we also will have rich fellowship one with another. After all, the Bible does not end with the scene of the devil boiling in the lake of fire; its last two chapters are a beautiful picture of God making His tabernacle with men. May we seek that heaven on earth.

By Jason Burkholder in *The Golden Chain*

Selected by Jean Martin

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### RULES FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE

1. Never be angry at the same time.
2. Never yell at each other unless the house is on fire.
3. If one of you has to win the argument, let it be the other one.



4. If you have to criticize, do it lovingly.
5. Never bring up mistakes of the past.
6. Neglect the whole world rather than each other.
7. Never go to sleep with an argument unsettled.
8. At least once every day, try to say one kind or complimentary thing to your partner.
9. When you have done something wrong, be ready to admit it and ask for forgiveness.
10. It takes two to make a quarrel, and the one in the wrong is usually the one who does the most talking.

Selected from Scrapbook of Ideas #2

By Vera Overholt

Also, Pray together once every day, each one praying aloud. Husbands and wives who pray together will stay together.

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### IT IS HARD FOR AN EMPTY BAG TO STAND UPRIGHT

A child is like a bag. A child is naturally airy and light, especially in his mind. And, like an empty bag, a small gust of "wind" from any direction will topple him and tumble him along. Also, like an empty bag, his top needs to be consciously opened so that he can be filled. A child whose top is carefully opened and who is taught social skills, academics, and Bible facts gains some weight in his bag. But the most weight is gained by instilling the fear of God, the beginning of wisdom. Such weight evidences itself in upright character--character that remains upright, even in a howling storm. Who questions whether howling storms exist in our world today?

By Chester Weaver, Jr.

In *The Christian School Builder*, June, 1991

## A PARENT'S PRAYER

We thank Thee, Lord, for endless life,  
The greatest gift of all,  
And for the gift of newborn life,  
So innocent and small.

We ask Thee, Lord, that we may learn  
The joy of innocence,  
The childlike trust and faith sincere,  
And love without pretense.

And, too, dear Lord, help us to teach  
The lessons day by day  
Of sharing hearts and helping hands,  
And choosing Thy best way.

So that at last when earthly life  
Is given back to Thee,  
In Heaven's happy home above,  
We'll join Thy family.

By Martha Rohrer

Selected by Sarah Martin

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## BIRTHS

- ✓ Cable - A son, Ivan David, born June 26 to Larry and Liana Cable of Dayton, Ohio.
- ✓ Meyers - A daughter, Tracy Nicole, born July 8 to Kevin and Heidi Meyers of Dallas Center, Iowa.

✓ Martin - A son, Silas Kenneth, born July 19 to Matthew and Sarah Martin of New Madison, Ohio.

Martin - A daughter, Lilia Belle, born July 20 to Andrew and Marla Martin of Hollansburg, Ohio.

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### ELECTIONS

The Yellow Creek Old Brethren held an election in Palestine, Ohio, on July 18. Allen Hilty was chosen and installed in the first degree of ministry and is supported by his wife Carletta. Andrew Martin was chosen and installed in the office of deacon and serves with the support of his wife Marla. May God bless these couples as they serve in the office where they are called.

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### NEW ADDRESS

✓ Shane Oberholzer      27510 C.R. 42  
Wakarusa, IN 46573

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### LOVE AT HOME

There is beauty all around,      When there's love at home;  
There is joy in every sound,      When there's love at home;  
Peace and plenty here abide,      Smiling sweet on every side;  
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,      When there's love at home.

In the cottage there is joy,      When there's love at home;  
Hate and envy ne'er annoy,      When there's love at home;  
Roses blossom 'neath our feet,      All the earth's a garden sweet;  
Making life a bliss complete,      When there's love at home.

Kindly heaven smiles above, When there's love at home;  
All the earth is filled with love, When there's love at home;  
Sweeter sings the brooklet by, Brighter beams the azure sky;  
Oh, there's One who smiles on high, When there's love at home.

Jesus, show Thy mercy mine, *Then* there's love at home;  
Sweetly whisper, "I am thine," *Then* there's love at home;  
Source of love, Thy cheering light, Far exceeds the sun so  
bright--

Can dispel the gloom of night; *Then* there's love at home;

Arranged by J. D. Brunk

From *Spiritual Songs and Hymns*

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### FOR YOUTH

#### Habits of Safety

Just listen to the man who had his finger amputated by an unshielded auger, or the careless driver who was reading while driving and injured innocent victims, or the girl who thoughtlessly left candles burning unattended in her bedroom, which started a fire. They agree that disregarding safety habits may have serious results!

Being safety-conscious is a Christian expression. God's priceless esteem for the soul of man causes us to also have a high respect for life. Today's television violence and undisciplined, selfish pursuits of man result in many lives being snuffed out with unblinking callousness. Life is not cheap and temporal but precious and eternal.

We as Christians are safety conscious because of God's love in our hearts (Romans 5:5). To cause pain and grief to another is a personal hurt to us as well. We treat others as we would like to be treated (Luke 6:31). By allowing this divine love to



work in us, we can rise above our undisciplined and careless conduct to a pattern of life that is a blessing to others (Romans 13:13).

Following safety habits is a discipline that often requires extra time and cost. Take the time to get sufficient rest so that you are not a liability on the highway. Make it a habit to always look beyond your target before you shoot a firearm. At times the pressures of our work may cause us to do foolish things. Rather, let us establish habits of turning off power equipment before we unclog or service them. Take the time to check for children playing around your vehicle before speeding off to town for parts.

As humans, we can never rise above making mistakes. We will find ourselves responsible at times for causing hurt to others. We may simply fail to see the stop sign. But as divine love and respect for life fills our hearts, we will do all we can to correct our mistakes and to set disciplined patterns so that mistakes can be avoided in the future.

By Brian L. Eberly  
In *The Christian Example*

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### Ketchup Disobeys

Ketchup barked mournfully. Usually she was inside by evening, but I had been painting faces for puppy pillows and did not want her chewing or shedding on them. I was feeling sorry for her though, and decided to bring her in on a leash and try to impress on her that she *must not touch*.

I showed them to her and said "no!" She tried to sniff or paw them, and again I said "no." I said "no" even when she sniffed in their direction. She looked rather mournful, but seemed to understand and lose interest. I let her off the leash

and tried to keep an eye on her. I said "no" when she moved toward them, and soon she lay down in her favorite spot and watched me.

I was a little puzzled, though. Every time I glanced at her, her ears drooped, and she looked quite apologetic. Had I convinced her I was angry? I tried to console her, but she just looked more guilty.

Then I saw it: a badly crumpled puppy pillow, its face smudged and coated with dog hair. So she *was* guilty! She *had* understood, yet disobeyed, and now she was miserable.

I scolded and punished. She cowered and made doggy apologies. And soon we were on good terms again. But the puppy pillow would never be the same again.

This story makes me remember times when I also felt as she seemed to feel. I couldn't resist doing something wrong, but instead of enjoying it, I felt guilty and miserable. Maybe you have felt that way, too? We are always happier when we obey!

Martha Wagner, Gettysburg, Ohio

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# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## THE HANDS OF JESUS

The Hands that took the loaves  
and broke and blessed;  
The Hands that hushed the sea  
and put it quietly to rest;  
The Hands that took the spittle and the clay,  
placed it on blinded eyes  
and made them see that day;  
The Hands that stooped and wrote on sandy floor;  
accusers fled;  
she went to sin no more;  
The Hands that raised to beckon  
Lazarus from his grave;  
Were those same Hands that bled,  
my soul to save.

Juanita Jones-Grabigal  
Selected

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## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

Back to school! God has blessed us with the privilege to teach our own children in our own school. We can present the facts of math, the principles of science, the value of social studies, but more: our teachers can model behavior and belief in our Savior. The Bible can be our finest textbook while it is not even allowed in our public school teaching.

School is a project for all. Cooperation from parents, teachers, board members and church leaders will allow the school to operate at its best. Our goal is an extension of the ideals of the families: to educate and to prepare our children for a life of service in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Of course, our first and foremost teachers are our parents.

Teachers are the ones God uses to determine the life and success of the Christian school. They have a ministry. They should be given a reasonable wage. But unless a teacher considers this an opportunity to serve God, higher wages won't really help. If all work together to support our teachers, they will be satisfied and rewarded abundantly. One teacher told of often finding oranges and apples and other thoughtful gifts placed on his car seat. He discovered it was from one of the parents who probably could least afford it.

School does not replace parental teachings. It should never contradict but rather support the good purposes of the parents. On the other hand, unless the home subscribes to the ideals and rules of the Christian school, the teacher is handicapped and cannot have the ultimate success.

Our model for teaching is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Psalm 94:10: ". . . He that teacheth knowledge, shall not he know?" And verse 12: "Blessed is the man whom thou



chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law." Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as "Rabbi" and "a teacher come from God." The Comforter, who is the Holy Ghost, is also a teacher. John 14:26: "... he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." So, teachers, you are in good company and have a high calling and responsible profession.

As we begin another school year, let us pray for our schools and our teachers. Let us support them with appreciation, respect, and even praise for doing well in a challenging position.  
--L.C.

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### IS YOUR BARN EMPTY?

Recently I spoke with a friend of mine. He asked me if I knew anything about restoring barns. He has a barn that is in basically good shape but needs some attention to preserve it. As we walked through the structure and looked at it, he mentioned that one of the problems is that it is severely buffeted by the wind every winter. The problem, he explained, is that in addition to not being airtight, the barn is almost empty. When a gust of wind hits the barn, the air pressure increases inside the barn and stresses the structure, similar to putting a quick puff of air into an empty paper bag. A barn that is full, even if it is not sealed well, does not have the same problem.

Jesus used a similar example in Matthew 12:43-45. He compared the life of a man who had been delivered from an unclean spirit to an empty house. After the unclean spirit left, this man's "house" was cleansed, swept, and garnished. But it was left empty. The unclean spirit observed this, moved back in with seven of his fellow demons, and the last state of the man was far worse than the first.

What about our lives? If we fail to actively fill our minds with God's Word, if we fail to spend time in prayer with God on a daily basis, if we do not respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting, our "houses" will become empty also. The winds of temptation and trial that come will not only buffet us from without, but doubt, condemnation, and anger will add pressure within. Satan and his minions desire to move in and take control. They are ready to seize every opportunity to discourage us and move in with doubts, fears, resentment, and bitterness.

When we fill our lives with God's Word, prayer, the fruit of the Spirit, and love for each other, our lives become strong against the winds of temptation and trial that buffet us from without. When we walk in the Spirit, we have confidence and assurance. When we walk after the flesh, we experience doubt and condemnation. Read Romans 8:1,2 and meditate on the truth it contains. Our lives will either be filled with the "Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" or be governed by the "law of sin and death." These two will not peacefully co-exist. One must leave and one must stay.

What are you filling your life with? If what you read, watch, listen to, and do brings you closer to Jesus Christ and prepares you to weather the storms of life, keep it up. If what you are taking into your life brings only momentary pleasure, leaving you empty and no closer to Christ than when you started, you are setting yourself up to be blown away when a real storm appears. If this describes you, please take the advice of Peter in I Peter 1:13-16. Don't just drift. Actively direct your thoughts (gird up the loins of your mind) toward God. Be sober. Meditate often on heaven, the blessed hope of the Christian. Obey God's Word. Practice holy living. Allow the Holy Spirit to control your life.

Don't be an empty barn, buffeted without and within by every gust of wind that comes along. Allow God to fill you

with His love, first for Himself and secondly for others. Remember that the storms will come and the winds will blow. That is certain. When they come, will you be prepared?

Eddie Wagner

Modesto, California

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### OTHERS MAY; YOU CANNOT

If God has called you to be really like Jesus He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to follow other people, or measure yourself by other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other people do things which He will not let you do.

Other Christians and seemingly religious and useful men may push themselves forward, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it, and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others may boast of themselves, of their work, of their successes, of their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, or may have a legacy left to them, but it is likely God will keep you poor because He wants you to have something far better than gold, namely a helpless dependence upon Him, that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored and put forward, and keep you hidden in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only



be produced in the shade. He may let others be great but keep you small. He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious He may let others get credit for the work which you have done, and thus make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you with jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings, or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem distressed over. So, make up your mind that God in an infinite Sovereign, and has a right to do as He pleases with His own. He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in His dealings with you, but if you absolutely sell yourself to be His love slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and bestow upon you many blessing which come only to those who are in the inner circle.

Settle it forever, then, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not seem to use with others. Now, when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of Heaven.

#### VICTORY

When you are forgotten or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you smile inwardly, glorying in the insult or the oversight, because thereby counted worthy to suffer with Christ--that is victory.

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your taste offended, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you take it all in patient, loving silence--that is victory.



When you are content with any food, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude, any interruption by the will of God--that is victory.

*Lord Jesus, make Thyself to me  
A living, bright Reality;  
More present to faith's vision keen  
Than any earthly object seen;  
More dear, more intimately nigh  
Than e'en the dearest earthly tie.*

"If ye then be risen with Christ,. . . Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3)

"And lest I should be exalted above measure. . . there was given to me a thorn in the flesh. . . For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (II Corinthians 12:7-9)

--G. D. Watson, adapted (Available as a tract)

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### FRIENDSHIP

Oh, the comfort--the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person.

Having neither to weigh thoughts,  
Nor measure words--but pouring them  
All right out--just as they are--  
Chaff and grain together--  
Certain that a faithful hand will  
Take and sift them--  
Keep what is worth keeping--  
And with the breath of kindness  
Blow the rest away.

--Dinah Craik (Selected)

## OBITUARY

Ruth Mildred Crawmer, daughter of Samuel and Anna (Morgan) Bowman, was born September 21, 1917, in Modesto, California and passed away August 14, 2010, at 92 years. At an early age her family moved to Ripon, California. She lived there until she was ready for the 8th grade, and they then moved back to Modesto where she attended the Hart-Ransom School.

On June 26, 1934, she was baptized and became a member of the Old Brethren Church.

On December 4, 1937, she was united in marriage to Marvin Crawmer in the home of Owen Cripe who officiated. They were blessed with 67 years together.

To this union were born two daughters and two sons: Mary and Melvin Wheeler of Modesto, California; Erma and Fred Miller of Jasper, Arkansas; William and Carol Crawmer of Sonora, California; and Wayne and Linda Crawmer of Bend, Oregon, who survive. She is also survived by 11 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; 1 great, great grandchild; her sister Mary Ellen and Harold Royer of Goshen, Indiana; and many relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin; her parents; 2 brothers, James and Herman; 1 sister, Irene Bowman; 1 infant grandson and infant twin great grandchildren.

In 1946, Dad and Mom moved from Modesto to Long Barn, and after 39 years they moved down to the Twain Harte area. Due to declining health, in July, 2003, she entered into assisted living at Dale Commons. Then for 3 years, Mother was at Bethany Home until her passing.

Funeral services were held August 18, 2010, in Wood Colony Hall by the home brethren. Burial was in nearby Wood Colony Cemetery.

The family would like to thank each one for the loving support they had for Mother, and a special thanks to all the care givers at Bethany Home for the special love you had for Mother and family.

The Family

-----

A few days before Sister Ruth left us, Willy and Carol observed something very precious to them. Ruth opened her eyes wide and seemed to see something out the window that evidently gave her joy. Willy said they didn't see what she saw, but they saw the Lord evidently giving one of His saints a glimpse into glory just before He called her home. Willy wrote this poem to describe this precious event.

### OUR MOTHER'S LOVE FOR JESUS

Looking through the window--

"Lord will you come today?"

Looking through the window--

"Come take me by the hand."

Looking through the window--

"Yes, my eyes are dim,

But my heart is ready for the glorious change."

Looking through the window--

"Heaven's not far away;

I can see my loved ones happy as can be."

Looking through the window--

"Thoughts and fears all gone--

Holding on to Jesus; life's work here is done."

Looking up to Jesus--

"Seeing His great love; yes, I can realize

Eternal life has just begun."

William Crawmer

## THANKS TO ALL

To our dear members and friends--

When you saw our tears, you came and put your arms  
around us.

When we asked for your help, you opened your arms and  
hearts to us.

When we felt alone, you prayed for us.

Truly we saw and felt the love of God.

My God bless each one.

With love and thanks,  
The Crawmer family

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## BIRTHS

Fay - A son, Teagan Douglas, born August 1 to Tyler and Anna  
Fay of Greenville, Ohio.

Martin - A daughter, Paula Danette, born August 8 to Kevin  
and Ina Martin of New Paris, Indiana.

Skiles - A son, Kip James, born August 14 to Eric and Megan  
Skiles of New Paris, Indiana.

Walker - A son, Justin Lee, born August 15 to Jacob and Darcy  
Walker of Modesto, California.

Heatwole - A son, Justin Lee, born August 20 to Timothy and  
Sarah Heatwole of Nappanee, Indiana.

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Those who walk with God always reach their destination.



## CHRIST, THE WORD OF LIFE

St. John 5:36-40

I have as my witness, things greater than John;  
The work assigned me by the Father, I've done.  
My miracles, works prove that He has sent Me.  
To the vision of Him, you're blind and don't see.  
To His voice you are deaf; His word circumvent,  
And you don't believe Me, whom the Father has sent.  
You diligently study the Scriptures; you think  
You have life eternal in them, but you shrink  
From coming to Me, of whom the Scriptures tell.  
I have life to give you, but still you rebel.

O Jesus, what is my response to Your word?  
Do I truly believe the message I've heard?  
Yes, Jesus, I come, and You make Your word real;  
Your pardoning peace and Your presence I feel.  
Without You I'm dead in trespasses and sin,  
But living in You, I have true life within.  
Your word I believe, for Your life made it flesh,  
And only through You can its meaning refresh.  
So, open my heart to the Spirit, I pray;  
Thy words let me Hear; grant me grace to obey.

Miriam J. (Sauder) Brechbill

-----

I am not tired of my work, neither am I tired of the world.  
Yet, when Christ calls me home, I shall go with the gladness of  
a schoolboy bounding away from school!

Adoniram Judson

## FOR YOUTH

## The Red Sea Experience

Let us imagine for a moment what it would be like to have been a thirteen year old boy when Israel was delivered from Egypt. We will call him Haniel. He is the oldest son of Hiram and Merab of the tribe of Benjamin. Haniel was glad that his parents weren't among the worst complainers that could see only evil ahead. Hiram and Merab doubted at times but wanted to believe. Surely the miracles that Moses and Aaron performed upon Pharaoh and all Egypt proved that God was delivering them.

Hiram had followed exactly the directions of Moses about killing the passover lamb and smearing the blood on the door frame. Haniel had watched closely, knowing he was the firstborn and that this was to protect him, but hardly comprehending the reality of it all.

Now they were out of Egypt headed for the promised land. To Haniel the sky had never seemed so blue or the landscape so beautiful. He had known suffering, hunger, and hardship as the taskmasters heaped upon his parents and friends more and more work. All the boys his age had to help make bricks and gather stubble to try to keep up production. Now they were free! The desert sand felt good to his bare feet, and the trail ahead seemed to hold adventure.

They had enjoyed the camp at Succoth and Etham even though there was so much work to do, and they seemed ill prepared for travel. God was directing them from the cloud that moved just ahead of the long column of slow moving people, sheep, goats, and cattle. So far, the leaders were enthusiastic and even the complainers were changing their minds.

Haniel walked bravely along with a light heart carrying his pack of bedding. It was hot, but already the head of the column had reached the shore of a vast sea. The pillar of cloud had stopped, and word had come back that they were to camp on the shore of this sea. Sea breeze would be welcome to weary travellers.

Evening was approaching and a few of the stragglers were still arriving at camp when someone looked back at the trail over which they had come. A shout went up and travelled quickly through the camp. "Chariots, horses, Egyptians!" Now Haniel could see in the distance a fast-moving column of figures appearing over the rise and sweeping down the slope toward the helpless Israelites. What did it mean? Hadn't Pharaoh and his army driven them out? Hadn't God's plagues finally taught them their lesson and made them afraid to harm the Israelites? But here they were, descending on the defenseless host as an eagle on a wounded rabbit.

Immediately the complaints began. Haniel could see angry men surrounding the tents of Moses and Aaron:

"Were there no graves in Egypt for us?"

"Why did you bring us out here?"

"Didn't we tell you to let us alone to serve the Egyptians?"

"It would have been better to work for the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness!"

And then all was still for the Lord was giving directions to Moses. Haniel and his parents and all Israel saw a wonderful sight. The pillar of cloud began to move. Surely they were not to begin to travel again so soon. They could never outrun the swift horses at the snail's pace of this crowd. But no, the cloud moved around *behind* the camp and spread until it became a wall of protection between the helpless refugees and the army of Pharaoh. As darkness descended on the tense scene, this cloud glowed brilliantly and made light for Israel's camp, but it

was dark on the Egyptians' side. All night the Israelites were protected by this cloud.

The next morning Moses successfully quieted the fears of the people, saying, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."

Haniel's heart was glad as he admired the confidence of Moses. But the Lord said to Moses, " Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward. Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. Thy children of Israel shall go over on dry ground, but the Egyptians shall follow, and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh and his host."

As Haniel and his family watched, it happened. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. And all that night God caused a strong east wind to divide the sea and dry the land. The water stood as walls on both sides as the Israelites crossed.

But God troubled the Egyptians. They tried to cross, but their chariot wheels stuck in the mud of the sea that was no longer dry. They cried out as the waters returned upon them. Haniel and all the Israelites saw the Egyptians dead on the sea shore. Not one was spared. Haniel and his parents joined in singing the song of triumph and deliverance:

"The Lord is my strength and song,

And He is become my salvation:

He is my God

And I will prepare Him an habitation;

My father's God,

And I will exalt Him."

Read the whole song in Exodus 15.



1. Think what lessons we can learn from God's deliverance at the Red Sea.
  2. Would a boy like Haniel be encouraged to trust God more?
  3. Can we remember that God is in control when we are faced with problems we can't handle?
  4. Since Jesus came and gave us a New Testament, would we be glad to see our enemies destroyed like that? (Remember what Jesus taught about loving our enemies.) --L.C.
- 

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## It's Always Better

"Larry," began Steven one afternoon, "could you teach me to ride your bicycle? I can't go very fast on my trike."

"I think my bicycle is too big for you," answered Larry. "But I'll let you try if you want to. You can sit on the seat and put your feet on this bar. I'll push you and stay right behind so you don't fall."

"This is much more fun than riding my tricycle," Steven laughed. "I hope we do it again soon."

"We might," Larry agreed, "but I hope you don't ride it when I am not here to help you. You might fall and hurt yourself or ruin the bike. Now I think that is enough for today," he added as he stopped the bicycle and helped Steven off.

"Do you think you could give me a ride today?" Steven asked Larry the next morning.

"I'm sorry, Steven," Larry answered. "This is a busy time of the year. Brother John and his family went on a trip and we must look after their farm. I am afraid I might not have time to give you a ride for a while."

"Larry hasn't given me a ride for a long time," Steven thought one day. "I think I could learn to ride Larry's bicycle

without him. If only my feet would touch the pedals when I sit on the seat. "Slowly Steven walked to the shed and looked at the bike. "Larry didn't really tell me not to ride the bicycle," he thought. For a long time he looked at the bicycle. "I don't want to ruin Larry's bike," he decided at last. "I'll just have to ride my tricycle till Larry has more time."

Just then Larry came around the house. "Steven," he called, "Father said I may have the afternoon off. How would you like a ride on my bicycle?"

"I'd like that," Steven exclaimed. "What are you going to do with that spray?"

"I forgot to tell you," Larry answered. "Some yellow jackets have made their nest beside the bicycle. Yesterday I went into the shed to get a tool for Father. I had a few stings before I left. But they weren't too bad," he added.

"I'm glad I didn't ride Larry's bicycle today," Steven thought as he waited for Larry to spray the yellow jackets. "I probably would have gotten more stings than Larry. It always pays to do right," he decided. --By Ernestine in *Wee Lambs*, June, 1981.

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (1 John 4:14)

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## THE WEAVER

My life is but a weaving  
Between my Lord and me;  
I cannot choose the colors;  
He worketh steadily.

Oftimes He weaveth sorrow,  
And I, in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I, the underside.

Not till the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Shall God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful  
In the Weaver's skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned.

--Grant Colfax

## JEREMIAH AT THE POTTER'S HOUSE

*"Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words." (Jer. 18:2)*

A potter creates things out of clay--bowls, bottles, and pots. When Jeremiah arrived, the potter was making a work on the wheels. The wheels spin the vessel of clay to make it uniformly round and either tall or short. With his fingers the potter shapes the vessel as it spins to give it a graceful appearance.

As Jeremiah watched, "the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter." Was the potter discouraged? No, he knew clay was not always the same. He simply started over and made another vessel "as seemed good to the potter to make it." The Lord wanted Jeremiah to see this (and record it) and know that He was not through with back-sliding Israel.

The lesson of the potter is for us, too. At least two great principles or truths are demonstrated here.

First, God is the heavenly Potter with a grand design to make something useful and beautiful. He is much more able and skilful than this potter. To observe a vessel take shape in the potter's hands seems almost miraculous. God is a worker of miracles; He is not discouraged and does not stop working when His materials don't cooperate.

Second, we (nations or individuals) are in God's hands, in a sense helpless as clay is helpless. We cannot make ourselves. But as we are pliable like clay, God can transform us into something useful, and beautiful.

To compare clay with the skillful potter helps us see ourselves in God's sight. We are insignificant and yet God loves us. Isaiah writes (55:8,9): "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord, For



as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." We are created in the image of God, but unless we are led by the Spirit of God, the similarities stop there.

In short, it is our duty to be soft and pliable as clay in our Father's hands. Only He can make us good and useful.

Some might then conclude that our choices don't matter--that God makes us how we are and we can do nothing to modify it. Oh, if we could only know how God loves us and invites us to yield to Him! It is our stubborn, lazy natures that suggest that we can do nothing. God calls us even in the Old Testament (Isaiah 55:7); "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." And under the New Covenant, Jesus calls (Matthew 11:28): "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Some are now going through valleys of pain, disappointment, and despair. Some are battling depression. But let's never forget that God is still in control working with His people. We are only in the development of God's plan for us. The best lies ahead. We should not question God as He forms us. Isaiah 45:9: "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?"

Whether our lives be with many favors or with trials, let us remember our heavenly Father has a design in mind. He knows how to shape us as we interact with "vessels" around us. Our attitudes, whether submissive or rebellious, will influence others. If we are pliable clay in our Master's hands, He will make us a vessel to honour. May we be encouragement to our friends and a glory to our Maker. --L.C.

## INDIANA TIME CAPSULE OPENING 2000-2010

The Time Capsule is soon to be exposed! The young folks of 2000 assembled this collection of letters, pictures, newspapers, clippings, etc. Lord willing, it will be dug up after Council Meeting by the young folk boys. All who contributed, anyone interested, and all young folks of 2010 are invited to the school on November 13 at 7:30 to share in this time. It is expected that all whose names are on the signature paper sign their names on their 2010 blank.

This Time Capsule collection will still be on display on Sunday afternoon at the school for anyone interested.

Tom Royer

And are we yet alive  
And see each other's face?  
Glory and praise to Jesus give,  
For His redeeming grace.

Preserved by power divine  
To full salvation here,  
Again in Jesus' praise we join,  
And in His sight appear.

What troubles have we seen!  
What conflicts have we passed,  
Fightings without and fears within,  
*Since ten years have been cast.*

But out of all the Lord  
Hath brought us by His love,  
And still He doth His help afford  
And hides our life above.

Charles Wesley, 1749

## DISCIPLINE

Discipline...

...Is restriction, channeled force  
Guiding us in useful course.  
Like a stream reduced to trickle  
Follows path that wanders fickle.  
That same stream, confined by walls  
Will produce a roaring falls;  
When restrained by concrete jam  
And controlled, released from dam  
Spinning turbines, making light,  
Awing us with noisy might.

Discipline...

...Is restriction, channeled force  
Like a harness on a horse;  
Makes us rise from out of bed  
When we'd rather sleep instead;  
Makes us push from food away;  
We can eat another day.  
Makes us concentrate on work  
When we feel we'd rather shirk.  
Helps us think constructive thought,  
Helps us say the things we ought.

Discipline...

...Is restriction, channeled force  
This idea few endorse.  
I will do just as I please;  
I'll accept no boundaries.  
Give it to me if it's nice,  
Chocolate milk and pop on ice.  
Matters not if times are hard,

Put it on the credit card.  
Modern culture like the trickle  
Wends a wavering course and fickle.

Discipline...

...Is restriction, channeled force  
Heeding thus brings no remorse.  
Jesus said the path is straight  
Leading from the narrow gate,  
And the vine that bears much fruit  
Must be pruned to strengthen root.  
Let's accept Christ's burden light,  
For His easy yoke is right.  
Of much fruit will be the source,  
Of restriction, channeled force.

Gary Miller  
Pantego, North Carolina

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### A SURE WAY TO A HAPPY DAY

Happiness is something we create in our mind;  
It's not something you search for and so seldom find.  
It's just waking up and beginning the day  
By counting our blessings and kneeling to pray.  
*It's giving up thoughts that breed discontent,*  
And accepting what comes as a "gift heaven-sent."  
It's giving up wishing for things we have not,  
And making the best of whatever we've got.  
It's knowing that life's a responsibility for us,  
And pursuing our tasks without fret, fume, or fuss.  
For it's by completing what God gives us to do  
That we find real contentment and happiness, too.

Selected



## GOD'S PAY

Who does God's work will get God's pay,  
However long may be the day.  
He does not pay as others pay  
In gold or lands or raiment gay;  
In goods that perish or decay;  
But God's high wisdom knows the way,  
And this is sure, let come what may  
Who does God's work will get God's pay.

Author unknown From *Gems of Truth*

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## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

## Cultivating Neatness and Order in Our Children

A significant part of God's Law as recorded in Leviticus relates directly to outward cleanliness. In fact, some of these statutes would be considered extreme today. One who merely touched the flesh of an unclean person, for example, was to wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening (Lev. 15:7). It is therefore quite clear that God is interested in cleanliness and order.

Where should parents begin in teaching neatness and order to their children? As with most other things, these virtues must be taught from infancy. Parents who consistently maintain order, neatness, and cleanliness while their children are very young are setting the stage for their children to adopt similar practices when they become older. The order or disorder that a child closes his eyes upon every evening and awakens to every morning will finally become what he accepts as normal.

This little verse by the English poet Robert Louis Stevenson is revealing:

Little Indian, Sioux and Crow,

Little frosty Eskimo,  
Little Turk and Japanee--  
Don't you wish that you were me?  
Such a life is very fine,  
But it's not so nice as mine.  
You have curious things to eat;  
I am fed on proper meat.  
You must dwell beyond the foam,  
But I am safe and live at home.

While not directly referring to orderliness, this poem nevertheless illustrates the point that a child thinks of his environment as being the norm.

It should be clear then that a child who sleeps in an orderly room, wears clean, pressed clothes, and eats from a neat, attractive table, will be inclined to be neat and orderly himself. And the opposite is just as true. In fact, it is poor practice for a parent to leave a wet diaper on a toddler with the hope that "maybe he'll get tired of it." Children do not get tired of dirt and disorder; they get used to it.

Having established a well-ordered system of neatness themselves, parents are now in an excellent position to teach order in practical ways. This includes seeing that hands and faces are washed, hair is combed, clothes are changed regularly, and beds are made. Ideally, the home should have such an atmosphere that rumpled hair and shirt tails hanging out are simply not acceptable.

The same atmosphere should pervade the schoolroom. There should be such a pattern of system and order that anything otherwise seems to be out of place. Books should be neatly arranged on the shelves, desks should be kept orderly, supplies in their places, and homework papers uncluttered. The teacher should not tolerate less, either in himself or in his pupils.

And let us not forget the saying that cleanliness is next to godliness. An Indian once came to a service held at a Christian

mission; and to speak charitable, he was not clean. But he did respond to the Gospel, and the minister was able to lead him to the Lord that night. No sooner had they risen from prayer than the Indian looked down over himself, made a wry face, and said, "Beaver fat." His outward filth had never been mentioned; but when the Indian received a clean heart, he wanted a clean body as well.

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thessalonians 5:23).

By Marvin Eicher in  
*The Christian School Builder*, June, 1990

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## HISTORICAL

Dirk Willems, A.D. 1569

In the year 1569 a pious, faithful brother and follower of Jesus Christ named Dirk Willems, was apprehended at Asperen, in Holland, and had to endure severe tyranny from the papists. But as he had founded his faith not upon the drifting sand of human commandments, but upon the firm foundation stone Christ Jesus, he, notwithstanding all evil winds of human doctrine and heavy showers of tyrannical and severe persecution, remained immovable and steadfast unto the end; wherefore, when the chief Shepherd shall appear in the clouds of heaven and gather together His elect from all the ends of the earth, he shall also through grace hear the words: "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matthew 25:23)

Concerning his apprehension, it is stated by trustworthy persons, that when he fled he was hotly pursued by a thief-

catcher, and as there had been some frost, said Dirk Willems ran before over the ice, getting across with considerable peril. The thief-catcher following him broke through, when Dirk Willems, perceiving that the former was in danger of his life, quickly returned and aided him in getting out, and thus saved his life. The thief-catcher wanted to let him go, but the burgomaster, very sternly called to him to consider his oath, and thus he was again seized by the thief-catcher, and, at said place, after severe imprisonment and great trials proceeding from the deceitful papists, put to death at a lingering fire by these bloodthirsty, ravening wolves, enduring it with great steadfastness, and confirming the genuine faith of the truth with his death and blood, as an instructive example to all pious Christians of this time, and to the everlasting disgrace of the tyrannous papists.

Note: In this connection, it is related as true from the trustworthy memoirs of those who were present at the death of this pious witness of Jesus Christ, that the place where this offering occurred was without Asperen, on the side of Leerdam, and that, a strong east wind blowing that day, the kindled fire was much driven away from the upper part of his body, as he stood at the stake; in consequence of which this good man suffered a lingering death, insomuch that in the town of Leerdam, towards which the wind was blowing, he was heard to exclaim over seventy times: "O my Lord; my God," etc., for which cause the judge or bailiff, who was present on horseback, filled with sorrow and regret at the man's sufferings, wheeled about his horse, turning his back toward the place of execution, and said to the executioner: "Dispatch the man with a quick death." But how or in what manner the executioner then dealt with this pious witness of Jesus, I have not been able to learn, except only, that his life was consumed by the fire, and that he passed through the conflict with great steadfastness, having commended his soul into the hands of God.



As we have come into possession of the sentence which these rulers of darkness passed upon this friend of God, we have deemed it well, to add it here for the benefit of the readers, in order that reading the same, they may be able to perceive the truth of this matter.

Copy: Whereas, Dirk Willems, born at Asperen, at present a prisoner, has, without torture and iron bonds (or otherwise) before the bailiff and us judges, confessed, that at the age of fifteen, eighteen, or twenty years he was rebaptized in Rotterdam, at the house of one Pieter Willems, and that he, further, in Asperen at his house at divers hours, harbored and admitted secret conventicles and prohibited doctrines, and that he also has permitted several persons to be rebaptized in his aforesaid house; all of which is contrary to our holy Christian faith, and to the decrees of his royal majesty, and ought not to be tolerated, but severely punished, for an example to others; therefore, we the aforesaid judges, having, with mature deliberation of council, examined and considered all that was to be considered in this matter, have condemned and do condemn by these presents in the name, and in the behalf of his royal majesty, as Count of Holland, the aforesaid Dirk Willems, prisoner, persisting obstinately in his opinion, that he shall be executed with fire until death ensues; and declare all his property confiscated for the benefit of his royal majesty. So done this 16th of May, in presence of the judges, Cornelis Goverts, Jan van Stege Jans, Adriaen Gerrits, Adriaen Jans, Lucas Rutgers, Jan Jans, and Jan Roefelofs, A.D. 1569.

Extracted from the records of the town of Asperen, and after collation, this copy was found to agree (with the original) the 15th of October, 1606. Acknowledged by me, the town clerk of Asperen.

*Martyr's Mirror* (Pages 741,742)

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If we constantly watch our brethren, how can we watch Christ?  
--Seth Denlinger in *Beside the Still Waters*.

## BIRTH

FLORY - A son, Caleb Duane, born September 29 to Duane and Gayle Flory of Jasper, Arkansas.

## MARRIAGE

COVER - BRANDT Tyler Cover and Emily Brandt were married August 28 at West Lebanon, Indiana.

New address: 21191 Longeway,  
Sonora, CA 95370

Phones: Tyler's (209) 402-4090 Emily's (217) 918-3566

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## FOR YOUTH

## Reflections

Have you ever wanted to be a missionary to some far-off land? It sounds so exciting, doesn't it?! The head-hunting, cannibalistic savages, the huge lions, the dark jungles, the newness, the wonder of it all!

For my family, it was nothing like that. Sure, we had our exciting times, but I disliked doing my schoolwork just as much as any healthy child. My dad could tell you stories about the times he'd want to grade my math. I'm ashamed of it now, but it used to be so much fun to play outside that I'd skip my work. When grading day came, and Daddy'd tell me he wanted to see my books, I'd get a sudden "stomach-ache," and have to go sit in the out house for hours till Daddy'd go make me come out. One lady joked that I'd still be doing my fourth grade math when I was forty!

I have so many memories of experiences in Mexico that I don't know where to start! I hope you'll bear with me as I try to jot down my thoughts and memories in a logical way.

For almost two-and-a-half years we lived in a two-room log cabin with a ceiling so low a cat could knock its head on the

rafters! (O.K., maybe not *that* low!) When my poor, six-foot-some-odd uncle came to visit, he had to walk around with his head perpetually bent so he wouldn't cut his scalp on the nails sticking through the ceiling.

Really, though, it was a comfortable little place, and easy to clean; but it did have its drawbacks. One night I woke up and decided to get up and get a drink or something. I was walking across the cold cement floor, groping through the dark, when suddenly, under one of my feet, I felt a cold, slimy, wet, disgusting, oozing something! Ugh! I bounded to the nearest rug and stood there crying and scrubbing my foot with all my might. I had known we had a slug problem, but I didn't know they'd go across the *floor* in the middle of the *night*!

In Samachique, the village where we lived, everyone pretty much knew everyone else! Now, there was one man who was so old no one remembered his name, or if they did, they didn't use it. Everyone simply called him "the Uncle." Everyone, that is, except my siblings and me. Whenever he came to our house, (which was quite often) he'd cup his hands around his eyes, peer in the window and call out in his shrill voice. "Hello. Hello. . .Hello. Hello. . ." Because of this peculiar habit, we nicknamed him the "Hi! Guy." As I look back now, I wish we hadn't made fun of him. I know he laughed with us when we laughed at him, but I can picture the pain in his old grey eyes. Oh, how I wish we had been more respectful to the poor old man!

There is one more person I would like to tell you about before I lay my pen down. Her name is Maria Chepa. I don't know the end of her story; I don't know that anyone does. But I will tell you what I know. Nine or ten years ago, one of the young missionaries used to regularly go out walking through the mountains and canyons in our area, taking medicine to people, learning the language, getting to know the terrain, befriending the people, and telling them about Jesus. On one cold February day, he came across a little girl standing all alone,



shivering with fear at the sight of this big, white person, her matted hair falling into her face. Her dad and brothers were gone to a drinking party, and her mother was dead. She was left at home--an eleven-year-old--to take care of the family and run the house; and that, with no running water but the river, no electricity, and no stores within several hours' walk. Daddy and some of the other missionaries took a liking to her and kept going back. I don't know why; I can't explain it, but for some reason I have always felt a special attraction to her. Perhaps it is because we were both the same age--both *are* the same age.

I have met her only once, but I can't forget her. Daddy, the missionary who found her, and a wonderful older couple wanted to go out and see her one day, and they wanted to take me along. So we got toys together, piled into the pickup, and bounced along on the rough road as far as we could go. About two or three hours later, when we got to the end of the passable "road" we got out and hiked on down into the little valley where the "village" of about three shacks lay. We didn't spend a lot of time down there, and I don't remember all we did, but I do remember singing "Jesus Loves Me" or some song like that in her language. She and I played with some bubbles for a little bit and had a good time. Before we left, the older lady gave her a bar of soap and a comb so she could keep herself clean and feel like a "real lady"! I'm so glad I went that day! I've not seen her since, but she has had an impact on the rest of my life.

*Maria, I don't know where life has taken you. I don't know if you have a family of your own yet or not. I don't know if you remember any of what the missionary showed you about true love, about God's love. But if you could read this, I'd want you to know that I pray for you. And I'd want you to know that because of you, I want to do my best to be a friend to other motherless girls like you. I'd want to tell you that Jesus loves you more than you could ever imagine.*

Esther Taylor, Tuolumne, California



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## God Wants Us to Be Humble

"What does *humble* mean?" Clair asked Mama as he took another plate from the dish drainer to dry. He had heard Papa and Mama talking about how their bishop was a humble man.

Mama thought for a few moments and then began answering Clair. "Well, a humble person is not proud of the things that he can do or say, even if he can do them better than most other people can. A humble person will not do or say things just so that other people will look at him and think of what a nice, good person he is. His heart is not proud.

"I remember a boy named Cletus who was humble. Cletus was a good student. He tried to do his work neatly and well in school. He kept from bothering the other pupils who sat near him. Often if Cletus had some extra time, he would draw a picture and color it.

"One day Joanna saw a picture that Cletus had just finished as she went past his desk. She stopped and looked more closely at his picture. At recess time she came to my desk.

"Sister Vera,' she began eagerly, 'you ought to look at the picture that Cletus drew. It's really pretty.'

"I asked Cletus if I could see his picture. The other children who heard me ask to see his picture gathered around my desk because they, too, wanted to see what he had done. The picture he had drawn was very nice.

"Cletus smiled a little as the others looked at his work and talked about how nice it was. He did not say anything.

"Joanna told him, 'You can draw better than anyone else in our room, even if you are a first grader.'

"Instead of saying something proud about his picture, Cletus told us, 'My brother John drew a picture like this last night, only his picture is better than mine. Someday I hope I can draw really good pictures like John can.'

Category	Sub-category	Value
Agriculture	Grain	10.5
	Vegetables	8.2
	Fruit	5.7
	Flowers	3.1
	Grain	10.5
	Vegetables	8.2
	Fruit	5.7
	Flowers	3.1
	Grain	10.5
	Vegetables	8.2
Livestock	Cattle	12.3
	Pigs	9.8
	Sheep	7.4
	Goats	6.1
	Cattle	12.3
	Pigs	9.8
	Sheep	7.4
	Goats	6.1
	Cattle	12.3
	Pigs	9.8
Aquaculture	Shrimp	11.2
	Salmon	8.9
	Trout	6.5
	Shrimp	11.2
	Salmon	8.9
	Trout	6.5
	Shrimp	11.2
	Salmon	8.9
	Trout	6.5
	Shrimp	11.2
Forestry	Timber	13.7
	Pulp	10.1
	Timber	13.7
	Pulp	10.1
	Timber	13.7
	Pulp	10.1
	Timber	13.7
	Pulp	10.1
	Timber	13.7
	Pulp	10.1
Manufacturing	Food	15.4
	Textiles	12.8
	Chemicals	10.3
	Food	15.4
	Textiles	12.8
	Chemicals	10.3
	Food	15.4
	Textiles	12.8
	Chemicals	10.3
	Food	15.4
Services	Retail	18.9
	Health	16.2
	Education	14.7
	Retail	18.9
	Health	16.2
	Education	14.7
	Retail	18.9
	Health	16.2
	Education	14.7
	Retail	18.9

[illegible]

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# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## WHEN ALL THY MERCIES, O MY GOD

When all Thy mercies, O my God,  
My rising soul surveys,  
Transported with the view, I'm lost  
In wonder, love, and praise.

Unnumbered comforts on my soul  
Thy tender care bestowed,  
Before my infant heart conceived  
From whom these comforts flowed.

Ten thousand thousand precious gifts  
My daily thanks employ;  
Nor is the least a cheerful heart  
That tastes those gifts with joy.

Through all eternity to Thee  
A grateful song I'll raise;  
But oh, eternity's too short  
To utter all Thy praise!

Joseph Addison

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## THANKSGIVING

Imagine, if you can, a culture without thanksgiving. I don't mean one without a special day set aside as Thanksgiving Day, but a people without gratitude. You will see a culture without God, without joy, and without peace. Thanksgiving is certainly that important.

As positive as the apostle Paul usually was, he still knew it was necessary to speak negatively sometimes. In II Timothy 3 he lists some of the characteristics of ungodly men in the perilous "last days." "Unthankful" is one of those. I'm sure this term refers to a condition of the heart and not just an occasional omission of the words "Thank you."

Just consider that even many non-Christians recognize the need for expressing thanks for favors. Responsible parents teach their children early to say "Thank you" for small things. When we are unthankful and neglect to express appreciation, we are classed with the neglectful and untutored. A culture or a person without thankfulness would be undesirable in every way.

Luke 17:12-19 tells of ten men, lepers, who came to Jesus asking for healing. They all cried out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." Jesus simply told them, "Go shew yourselves unto the priests." As they obeyed Jesus, they were cleansed. One of the ten who was a Samaritan "turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his (Jesus') feet, giving him thanks. . ." Jesus' reply shows His disappointment in unthankful humanity: "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." Probably the nine were of Israel, but none of them thanked Jesus for this



gracious gift of healing their leprous bodies. I hope this is not our response when we have received cleansing from sin.

The Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth in 1620 were thankful for God's providence. The Indians under Chief Massasoit had helped them survive in the new land. William Bradford, the Pilgrim leader, invited them to celebrate three days of thanksgiving for the good harvest at the end of their first summer in the New World.

What have we to be especially thankful for in this fall of 2010? Our abundance of food and clothing, warm homes, kind friends, and comfortable transportation are only a beginning of a list that could go on and on. Toward the end of Paul's instructions to those who are risen with Christ, he writes, "...and be ye thankful." How simple a command and yet so profound! If we are not thankful, what else are we not? We are not Christian--not God's people.

Giving thanks from our hearts means that we are aware of our place before God. He is the Giver; we are the receivers. The human tendency is to look at our works, like Nebuchadnezzar, and puff up a little and think, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" Paul reminds us in I Corinthians 4:7, "For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?"

Thanksgiving, then, is only the reasonable response by those who have been favored, to the One who favored them. And unthankfulness is like stealing food from a wedding feast--like taking something that is already free but pretending we did not receive it.

May we truly give thanks as we contemplate God's greatest gift to the world: our Redeemer and Lord Jesus. --L.C.

## UNTHANKFUL?

Unthankful? When God has done so much for me?  
Ungrateful to the One who died on Calvary's tree?  
How can it be for one who owes such love  
To Him who saw my need and came down from above?

Unthankful? As I eat my share of daily food,  
And live in such a nation blessed with good;  
Enjoy the good and perfect gifts He's given,  
And call my own the house, the land, the home in Heaven.

Thanksgiving Day is set but once a year,  
But every day should see our thanks appear,  
Not only on our lips where words are free,  
But also in our hearts where none but God can see.

I see the handiwork of God on every side;  
I sense His love that calls me from my pride;  
I feel His care each day I live and breathe,  
And know I owe Him thanks for all I do receive.

By our thanks to God may all men know  
That we acknowledge Him to whom we owe  
Our very life and all our friends so dear  
And every sense and wish and word of cheer.

Lord, melt my heart today in thankful praise;  
May I serve in gratitude throughout my days;  
And let me in humility be as a child,  
Thankful for Thy mercy and Thy Son so meek and mild.

--L.C.

## JESUS' MIRACLES

Loaves and fishes	His power to create
The withered hand	His power over growth
Walking on water	His power over gravity
Calming the wind and sea	His power over weather
Raising Lazarus and others	His power to give life
Casting out devils	His power over Satan
Giving sight and hearing	His power to restore
Healing lepers	His power over diseases
Wilting /cursing the fig tree	His power over plant life
Raising the palsied man	His power to forgive sins
Changing water to wine	His power over compounds
The draught of fish	His power over sea creatures
Healing at a distance	His omnipresence
Knowing thoughts of men	His omniscience

---

  
WHICH?

There are two ways of beginning the day--with prayer, or without it. *You* began today in one of these two ways. Which?

There are two ways of spending the Lord's Day--idly or devotionally. *You* spend the Lord's Day in one of these two ways. Which?

There are two classes of people in the world--the saved and the unsaved. *You* belong to one of these two great classes. Which?

There are two masters of man in the universe--God and Satan. *You* are serving under one of these two masters. Which?

There are two roads which lead through time and to eternity--the broad road and the narrow road. *You* are walking on one of these two roads. Which?

There are two deaths which people die--some "die in the Lord," others "die in their sins." *You* will die one of these two deaths. Which?

There are two places to which people go--heaven or hell. *You* will go to one of these two places. Which?

Ponder these questions! Read John 3, Romans 3, and Ephesians 3. Pray! --Selected

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### BIRTH

HARRIS - A daughter, Rebekah Emmi, born October 27 to Michael and Wanda Harris of Casstown, Ohio.

### MARRIAGES

ZIMMERMAN - STALTER Aden Zimmerman and Martha Stalter were married October 23 near Marble Falls, Arkansas.

New address: Rt. 1, Box 96D

Western Grove, AR 72685

SAUDER - WILLIAMS Robert Sauder and Hannah Williams were married October 30 at Sonora, California.

New address: 19198 Cherokee Rd.

Tuolumne, CA 95379

### ADDRESS UPDATES

Susanna Tate: (574) 322-0668

Scott Argo: 22662 So. Fork Rd. Twain Harte  
P.O.Box 420 Soulsbyville, CA 95372  
(209) 586-5808 Danette's cell: (209) 768-0966



## HISTORICAL

Martyrs: Jacob Dircks, with His Two Sons,  
Andries Jacobs and Jan Jacobs, A.D. 1568

In this bloody and perilous time of persecution, also pious Jacob Dircks and his two sons, Andries Jacobs and Jan Jacobs fell into the hands of the tyrants. This Jacob Dircks, a tailor by trade, resided with his family at Utrecht, and as he was spied out there as one belonging to the persuasion of the Mennists, and as the lords wanted to apprehend him, he from fear of the tyrants fled to Antwerp. His wife, who did not hold these views, still remaining there for some time, the thief-catchers seized their property, and took about half of it. While Jacob Dircks resided with his family at Antwerp, his wife died there, and he and his aforementioned two sons, though having escaped the hands of the tyrants at Utrecht, subsequently fell in the claws of the wolves at Antwerp, where the trial of their faith was found much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire (I Pet. 1:7); so that they were together condemned to be burnt, each at a stake, only for the divine truth, and living according to it, and not on account of any crime committed. On their way to death, Jacob Dircks' youngest son, named Pieter Jacobs, met them, who, as he in his great sadness and sorrow, put his arms around his father's neck, was instantly most cruelly seized by the thief-catchers, and thrown under the feet of the people following. With what sorrow the father and the brothers beheld this is easily imagined. When the father and his two sons had each been placed at a stake, he said: "How is it my dear sons?" Each replied: "Very well, my dear father." Andries Jacobs being betrothed at the time, his bride and his sister viewed from a distance with sorrowful hearts and weeping eyes this offering, how their

bridegroom and brother, forsaking a temporal bride, and temporal relationship, chose the eternal Bridegroom Christ Jesus above all visible things. Thus these heroes were strangled, each at a stake and then burnt, sealing the truth with their death and blood on the 17th of March, 1568. Therefore they shall also, for their severe travail, hear the sweet and welcome voice of Christ: "Ye good and faithful servants, ye have been faithful over a few things, I will make you rulers over many things; enter ye into the joy of your Lord." And, again, the king will say: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matt. 25:23,24)

This narrative is recorded from the accounts of trustworthy persons, who witnessed this offering themselves.

From *Martyr's Mirror* page 724,725

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### SONNET ON HIS BLINDNESS

When I consider how my light is spent  
 Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide  
 And that one talent, which is death to hide,  
 Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent  
 To serve therewith my Maker, and present  
 My true account, lest He, returning, chide:  
 "Doth God exact day labor, light denied?"  
 I fondly ask; but Patience, to prevent  
 That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need  
 Either man's work, or His own gifts; who best  
 Bear His mild yoke, they serve Him best. His state  
 Is kingly. Thousands at His bidding speed.  
 And post o'er land and ocean without rest;  
 They also serve who only stand and wait."

John Milton (1608-1674)

## FORGIVE ME WHEN I WHINE

Today upon a bus I saw  
A lovely maid with golden hair;  
I envied her--she seemed so gay--  
And oh, I wished I were so fair,  
When suddenly she rose to leave,  
I saw her hobble down the aisle;  
She had one foot and wore a crutch,  
But as she passed, a smile.  
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,  
I have two feet--the world is mine.

And when I stopped to buy some sweets,  
The lad who served me had such charm,  
He seemed to radiate good cheer,  
His manner was so kind and warm.  
I said, "It's nice to deal with you,  
Such courtesy I seldom find;"  
He turned and said, "Oh, thank you, sir!"  
And then I saw that he was blind.  
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,  
I have two eyes--the world is mine.

Then when walking down the street,  
I saw a child with eyes of blue,  
He stood and watched the others play;  
It seemed he knew not what to do;  
I stopped a moment, then I said,  
"Why don't you join the others, dear?"  
He looked ahead without a word,  
And then I knew: he could not hear.  
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,  
I have two ears, the world is mine.

## THE PILGRIM

With feet to take me where I'd go,  
With eyes to see the sunset's glow,  
With ears to hear what I would know,  
I'm blessed indeed; the world is mine;  
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.

Selected from *Scrapbook of Ideas*

by Vera Overholt

## SOME PARENTS SAY:

"We will not influence our children in making choices and decisions in matters of religion!" But why not?

## The ads will!

**The press will!**

**The movies will!**

## The neighbors will!

**The forces of sin will!**

## The politicians will!

We use our influence over flowers, vegetables, cattle, etc. Shall we ignore our own children? May God forgive us if we do.

--Selected

--Selected

## FOR WHAT SHALL I GIVE THANKS?

The myriad colors which splash the eastern sky  
the awe they inspire  
Beginning the day in quiet time with the Creator  
Acclaiming His sovereignty  
Acknowledging my dependency  
Deploring my guilt  
Accepting His mercy.

## Apparel

## Food in abundance



A voice of love wishing me a good day  
    as I leave for the duties awaiting  
The trilling melody of birds which greets me  
A stately tree silhouetted against the blue sky  
Flowers to brighten the way  
    Work to do  
        Problems to solve  
            Challenges to meet  
Strength to accomplish my tasks  
Returning home  
    Feeling loved  
        Fellowshiping around a food-laden table  
Inspiration from reading the writings of others  
    especially the Bible  
Friendship and fellowship  
Being understood when the heart's depths are shared  
Disappointments, heartaches  
    Trials to refine my character  
Failures and weakness to increase my awareness  
    of an all-powerful God  
Victories  
    Battles won  
        Proving the ultimate authority of God  
Freedom to worship  
    A place to worship  
        A brotherhood with which to worship  
            An almighty God to worship  
A place of shelter at day's end  
    The comfort of a quiet resting place  
        The blessing of repose  
For what shall I give thanks?  
    Everything!

Miriam J. (Sauder) Brechbill  
From *The Golden Chain*, December, 1971

FOR YOUTH  
Happiness on Thanksgiving Day

Said Grandfather Gray, "On a Thanksgiving Day,  
If you want to be happy, give something away."  
So he gave a fat turkey to Shoemaker Price,

And the shoemaker said, "What a fine bird! How nice!  
And since such a good dinner's before me, I ought  
To give Widow Lee the small chicken I bought."  
"This fine chicken! Oh, see!" said the pleased Widow Lee,  
"And the kindness that sent it--how precious to me!  
I would like to make someone as happy as I.  
I'll give Washwoman Biddy my big pumpkin pie."  
And, "Oh, sure!" Biddy said. "It's the queen of all pies;  
Just to look at its yellow face gladdens my eyes.  
Now it's my turn, I think, and a sweet ginger cake  
For the motherless Finnegan children I'll make."

"A sweet cake all our own! 'Tis too good to be true!"  
Said the Finnegan children--Rose, Benny, and Hugh--  
"It smells sweet of spice, and we'll carry a slice  
To little lame Jake, who has nothing that's nice."

"Oh, I thank you and thank you," said little lame Jake.  
"What a beautiful, beautiful, beautiful cake!  
And, oh, such a big slice; I will save all the crumbs  
And give some to each little sparrow that comes."

And the sparrows, they twittered as if they would say  
Like Grandfather Gray, "On Thanksgiving Day,  
If you want to be happy, give something away."

*From Poems For Memorization*

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## Will You Throw It Away?

It was one of those unusual November days when it was still warm enough to eat outside at lunchtime. Sister Ruth and her students were sitting on benches by the fence at the edge of the school yard, enjoying their lunches and the beautiful weather. Absent-mindedly, Sister Ruth watched Jerry peeling his banana. The next moment, she saw him toss the whole banana over the fence into the roadside ditch! "Jerry," Sister Ruth called, "why did you throw your banana away?"

"It had a brown spot," explained Jerry.

"I want you to jump over the fence, get that banana, and bring it to me," instructed Sister Ruth.

Jerry quickly obeyed and was soon back with the banana, which, of course, by now was speckled here and there with bits of dirt and pieces of grass. But a small, brown bruise mark still showed on the one side of the banana. "You could easily have eaten this banana anyway," stated Sister Ruth. "This little brown spot wouldn't have hurt you. Besides, you could have eaten around the brown spot. Most of the banana was good, right?" asked Sister Ruth.

"Yes," Jerry replied with downcast eyes.

"I do not want you to ever do this again, Jerry," stated Sister Ruth. "It is wasteful to throw away food like this."

This incident made Sister Ruth reflect on other recent happenings when her students seemed wasteful and unthankful for the food they had. One day she had seen Joyce take a small bite of her granola bar and then throw the rest away. "I don't like granola bars with raisins," she had commented. When another girl reminded her, "My mother says, 'There are many hungry children in the world who would be glad for the food we

throw away." Joyce had quipped, "I wish I could throw it over the ocean to them." And just the other day as Carl finished his lunch early, Sister Ruth had asked, "Are you finished already?" He had replied, "I ate everything but my sandwich. Mother put mayonnaise on it, and I don't like mayonnaise." Was there anything Sister Ruth could do to help her students in this matter? She breathed a prayer to God for wisdom.

One Wednesday morning, a couple of weeks later, as the students arrived at school, they noticed ten large stick figures drawn on the blackboard. Each figure had arms outstretched holding a round, flat object. "Why did you draw those people on the board?" asked Dorcas.

"For devotions," replied Sister Ruth with a twinkle in her eye.

"Maybe it's Joseph's ten brothers," guessed Lucille.

"I wonder why the first four have happy faces, and some of the rest look sad." said Carol.

Sister Ruth started devotions that morning with several questions. "How many of you had breakfast this morning? Were you thankful for it? How many of you have a lunch along? Are you thankful for the food in it? Do you sometimes complain about what is in your lunch? Have you ever thrown away food you didn't like?

"Now let's turn in our Bibles to Genesis 41." Sister Ruth proceeded to read and discuss verses 15-36, the account of the years of plenty in Egypt and Joseph's instructions to carefully gather the extra grain and store it for the years of famine. After that she read from John 6 about Jesus feeding the five thousand and how He instructed the disciples to gather up the fragments "that nothing be lost."

Sister Ruth closed her Bible and continued, "Many of you have noticed the ten stick figures drawn on the blackboard. You will see that each of them is holding a plate. Recently I



read some statistics that represented the world population with ten people. These ten people were lining up for the world's food supply. As you know, some people in the world have more food than they can eat while others are very hungry. So let's think of these stick figures as ten children, and this is the way the world's food would be divided. The first two children would get a full course meal with many leftovers." Sister Ruth quickly sketched a heap of food on the first two plates, with some extra food falling off the edges. On the next two plates, she drew enough food to cover the plate, but the food was not piled high. "These two children would get a plate of food that satisfies, but nothing extra.

"Now, did you notice that the rest of the children have sad faces? that's because the next three would get just a little food," said Sister Ruth as she added a little spot on each plate, "but they would still be hungry." There were three left. "These three children would get nothing. They would merely watch as the others eat, and would go away hungry, starving, and dying."

The students' faces were sober as they watched and listened. "Where in this world would children like the last three live?" questioned Sister Ruth.

"Africa?" suggested John.

"That's right. In countries like Ethiopia and South Africa.

"Which of the ten children would stand for children like you here in the United States?" The students all raised their hands to answer this question. "Yes, it would be one of the first two," agreed Sister Ruth. "Boys and girls, when we think of these facts, don't you think we should be much more thankful to God for our food? I don't think we would throw food away if all we had was a little in our lunch box, and we were very hungry. Let's remember this illustration when we are tempted to complain about our food or be wasteful with it."

James raised his hand. "I'm sure I'll think of this when I eat my lunch today."

"I think many of us will," concluded Sister Ruth, "and I hope we'll think of it tomorrow, too, when we eat our Thanksgiving dinners. Let's stand now and sing the song 'God Is Great.' Although we often sing this song as a mealtime prayer, let's sing it now and think of the words as we sing."

God is great, and God is Good,  
And we thank Him for our food;  
By His hand we all are fed;  
Give us, Lord, our daily bread.

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### PILGRIM POINTER

Let us watch our attitudes. Some say they are more important than facts. At this season may we have an "attitude of gratitude."

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# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE

Out of eternity,  
Out of His love,  
God gave His best gift--  
Jesus came from above!

The King as a servant,  
The Shepherd, a lamb,  
The Potter as clay,  
Son of God, Son of Man.

He came as a baby,  
Homeless and poor,  
And centuries later,  
Still knocks at the door.

He's God's gift of Life,  
As He's been from the start,  
With no need for an inn--  
If there's room in your heart!

Author unknown to us

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## THE SAVIOUR IS BORN

This season called *Christmas* is special to millions of people around the world. Work stops and men celebrate. Even many of those who do not believe the Bible as God's Word still decorate their houses and put on a feast for family. (We are not writing to judge motives, but only to explore the event that affects so many.) It speaks of peace and goodwill.

Paul in Romans 14 comments on holidays: *"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."* In all our regarding days or our eating, it is important that we give God thanks. For, as in verse 10, *"we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."* Not only that, but he quotes Isaiah 45:23: *"As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."*

We should not judge one another, but as we consider things of God or try to represent Him in any way, it is serious business--not something to take lightly.

Everyone knows this last season of the year is important to merchants who handle gifts. Gift-giving is enjoyable to all, especially to children. Some like to remember that the wise men brought gifts to Joseph and Mary at the birth of the King. They came from "the east to Jerusalem" enquiring *"Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."* Their rich gifts were no doubt needed and used as the angel directed Joseph to flee to Egypt to protect the Baby Jesus from Herod.

We love to read the accounts surrounding this birth of the Saviour. We understand that He did not order the remembrance of His birth but of His death. Nevertheless, all



the events of our Saviour's life here are precious, and the many details are told so faithfully. Jesus said that the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, shall teach you *"and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."* This explains how the writers of the Gospels could recount the story for us.

What is the best way to consider the birth of our Lord and Saviour? (Most conservative Christians don't put up lights on their houses or set up a "Christmas tree.") Many give gifts and enjoy family gatherings. Some churches have special services honoring this blessed One who came to save us. Most of all, let us be thankful and *worship* our Heavenly Father who could send His only Son to die in atonement for our sins.

The miraculous birth of Jesus when Mary was chosen to be the virgin mother, was only the beginning of the wonderful things He did here on earth. He fulfilled the many prophecies God gave to inspire hope that someday a Redeemer would come and bear in His body the sins of us all.

Luke records a prophecy by Isaiah (61:1,2): *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."* Jesus told the people of Nazareth that He was fulfilling this prophecy. They did not accept it, and tried to kill him. It wasn't the only time the Jews wanted to get rid of Him, for He told them of their sins and called them to repentance.

Eventually they did crucify Jesus as He called on the Father to forgive them *"for they know not what they do."* This is our peaceful Saviour whose birth we remember in 2010. The account goes on and tells of His resurrection and return to the Father having accomplished the salvation of all who will come to Him believing, worshipping, and obeying.

As we become involved in gifts and gatherings, may we never forget how He loved us and suffered for us. Let us believe the record and know Him better and serve Him more faithfully. He promised to come again, this time not as a baby laid in a manger but as a conquering King of Kings and Lord of Lords. "Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord." --L.C.

-----

### BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn.  
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born;  
Rise to adore the mystery of love,  
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;  
With them the joyful tidings first begun  
Of God Incarnate and Virgin's Son

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
Who heard the angelic herald's voice, "Behold,  
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth:  
To you and all the nations upon earth:  
This day hath God fulfilled His promised word,  
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord."

He spake; and straightway the celestial choir  
In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire:  
The praises of redeeming love they sang,  
And heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang:  
God's highest glory was their anthem still,  
Peace upon earth, and unto men good will.

To Bethlehem straight the enlightened shepherds ran,  
To see the wonder God had wrought for man,  
And found, with Joseph and the blessed Maid,  
Her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid:

Then to their flocks, still praising God, return,  
And their glad hearts with holy rapture burn.

O may we keep and ponder in our mind  
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;  
Trace we the Babe, who has retrieved our loss,  
From His poor manger to His bitter Cross;  
Tread in His steps assisted by His grace,  
Till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

Then may we hope, the angelic hosts among,  
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:  
He that was born upon this joyful day  
Around us all His glory shall display:  
Saved by His love, incessant we shall sing  
Eternal praise to Heaven's Almighty King. Amen.

John Byrom, 1750

-----

"Peace, perfect peace -- our future all unknown?  
Jesus we know, and He is on the throne."  
-- Edward Henry Bickersteth, 1875

This brings a prayer that you have been inspired as you've passed through the pages of *The Pilgrim* each month. We thank the Yellow Creek Brethren for extra funding, Bill Miller for our address labels, Sarah Martin for updates, generous encouragers and each faithful subscriber.

We depend on your regular subscriptions; your expiration is on your address label. Are you "staying with us?" or adding a friend? Pray for us as we begin the 58th volume.

May the new year be filled with His joy and peace because of Jesus.  
Leslie & Martha Cover

### THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED

*After he was martyred for his faith in Jesus, this letter was found in his desk. Written by a young pastor in Zimbabwe.*

I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit's power. The die is cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I will not look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed; my present makes sense; my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk with patience, live by prayer, and labor with power. My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my Guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, spoken up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go 'til He comes, give 'til I drop, preach 'til all know, and work 'til He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no trouble recognizing me. My banner is clear: I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed!

---

### BIRTH

HILTY - A son, Henry George, born December 16 to Allan and Carletta Hilty of New Madison, Ohio.



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## TEN YEARS AGO

*The following two articles were written ten years ago and sealed with others in a "time capsule" in Indiana. Recently the capsule was opened and the articles read. What a difference ten years has made! And yet our faith should not change as the years pass. --L.C.*

November 27, 2000

We are thankful for our youth. From our observation your activities are wholesome, and you enjoy one another's companionship.

Your behavior is respectful and an honor to God in truth. This is a result of parental training and teaching. Our prayer is that you would personally experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your life, as only in this can you face adulthood in honor to God.

Personal struggles are a reality of all people. This is a result of sin entering in to the heart of man. The balm for this is in true fellowship with the faithful followers of Christ.

The choices we make in youth are what we become in adult life. Look at soberly and observe the truth of this. Our physical drives develop before our mental powers to control them. Therefore God has provided means that we can be guided through this stage of life in purity in honor of godly parents.

The secret power of holiness is only preserved in the love of truth. The comfort to know that God is in control of the future is the joy of every soul that believes in His promises--that He will never leave us not forsake us even until the end of the world.

Kenneth Martin

## THE FUTURE 2000 - 2010

"Be sure our past will be part of our future."

This is being written to be read in ten years. To look ten years in the future, one almost needs to look back over the past ten years. History can teach us much if we study it to learn.

From my viewpoint I think of the present young folks. I've watched them from birth. I've watched them grow and mature, as also I welcomed their parents at birth, watched them grow, marry, and start up new homes.

History tells me that in the last ten years there were around thirty-five marriages. All established new homes. All are Old Brethren homes with the exception of six of which one spouse of each of them grew up in an Old Brethren home.

Think of that many Christian homes established. In that ten years there were approximately 135 children born. Think of the responsibility of bringing them up in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Will the ten years ahead show the same growth? Will the present young folks marry in the Lord and establish Christian homes? Old Brethren homes? Will the present young folks face more temptations from the world?

What other changes occurred the past ten years? Modern technology of the last ten years will all be obsolete by then. Will we be caught up in trying to keep up with the world?

Will the taffy pull continue for ten years? When Mary and I started it with ten persons in 1973 in our home, we had no idea it would grow as it did. It has stayed about the same except for older ones leaving and young ones starting. We had new names and new faces to remember, yet the same enthusiasm and excitement each time. We saw the shy ones and first time ones standing back watching and yet getting drawn into the activity.

I could always tell who were first timers because of the problems they had to pull. Some would say it wasn't cooked right, yet others got along fine.

How many baptizings have there been the last ten years? How many have made that most important step in life? It's so good to "remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

I am now seventy-five years old. I've watched many grow up, marry, become parents and now grandparents. My life has been enriched through the years by this.

I don't know how many more years I will have here, but it's in God's hands. He has been so good to me and blessed me with many friendships.

My prayer is, if God wills it so, the next ten years will be also years of growth for all in the Christian walk.

Wishing God's blessings on all.

Elma Moss

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## FOR YOUTH

### DUTIES OF YOUNG MEN DURING PERIODS OF REGISTRATION

1. Young men, within a period of 30 days before to 30 days after their 18th birthday, must register with the Selective Service on the Internet, or at any Post Office, American Embassy, or U. S. Consulate. We suggest registering on a form that may be obtained at any U.S. Post Office, and printing on that form, just above the signature, "I am a Conscientious Objector." If you fail to register within the above time period, you may register anytime prior to your 26th birthday. *(It is only reasonable to register at the time suggested if we expect fair treatment from our government. -L.C.)*

2. Make a photocopy of all forms and correspondence with Selective Service for your own records before sending them in.



3. Keep the registration acknowledgment you receive from Selective Service.

4. Report any changes in registration information as they occur (i.e., legal name or current mailing address.)

5. Prepare a statement of your beliefs. The Civilian Service Board of the Dunkard Brethren Church has a "Registration Packet" available upon request. Be sure the statement of your beliefs is signed and dated, and have a copy of your statement placed on file with your church or person designated to maintain these statements. Such a statement could be helpful in being recognized as a Conscientious Objector in the event that a military draft were reenacted. It is vitally important that you live your life in a manner that is consistent with what you say you believe.

If you have any questions regarding your registration record, you may call the Registrant Information Office at 1-847-688-6888, or 1-888-655-1825 toll free, or contact Selective Service on the Web at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov).

In times of *registration only*, Selective Service does not classify registrants. The registration acknowledgment will contain no reference to your statement that you are a Conscientious Objector. They will not enter this information into their database. However, if you keep a photocopy of your registration card with your statement including your signature and date, it will demonstrate that you held this belief at the time you registered. If you registered on-line or were registered by the Department of Motor Vehicles when you applied for a drivers license, you can write and send a letter to Selective Service at any time stating you are a Conscientious Objector. Be sure to keep a copy of such a letter in your file, or have it placed with your statement that is mentioned above. If you send this letter by certified mail, return receipt requested, you will have proof with a date that you attempted to get your



beliefs on record with Selective Service long before they attempt to draft you.

The Selective Service System cannot reinstate the military draft. In order for a military draft to be enacted, a crisis would need to occur which would require more troops than the volunteer military could supply. Congress would then need to pass legislation which would start a draft. In order to be effective, the President of the United States would then need to sign the legislation. The purpose of the Selective Service System is to provide "human capital" to the military as requested by the Secretary of Defense in the event of a draft and to hear appeals from those who seek exemption from military service.

These are excerpts taken from the October, 2010, booklet *Alternative Service Program Update* by Robert Lehigh, executive Secretary of the Civilian Service Board of the Dunkard Brethren Church. For more information or to order this booklet write:

Robert Lehigh  
P.O. Box 391  
Hanover, PA 17331

We invite and urge any of you to send a statement of your convictions for publishing in *The Pilgrim*. It could be titled "Why I Am a Conscientious Objector" or "My Objection to Christians Participating in War." (Possibly 50 to 100 words or more.)

You who in the past have been assigned to alternative service might consider sharing some of your experiences for the benefit of the younger ones.

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Suggested reading: *Report for Duty, The Call of the SSS,*  
*The Whirlwind Cometh*

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### Bristle-Pig

Bristle-Pig. That is a name for a porcupine. And it fits well, I think. But if you knew the porcupine without his quills, you would find him to be a docile, "common, friendly sort," though rather timid. In fact porkies, as they are also called, have made good pets even with their quills. . . unless they feel threatened. Then they live up to the name bristle-pig. So watch out!

Some people, myself included, are a lot like a bristle-pig. We want to be friends, but if someone hurts us, the bristles rise, which is not at all Christ-like, and tends to make enemies out of friends. Those of us who are like the bristle-pig need to remember that by hurting people who have hurt us, we increase our own pain. "You cannot beat them by joining them." Rather we should, like Christ, turn the other cheek. Then maybe we will make a friend.

But what if you meet a "bristle-pig"? Remember, he expects to be heard. Surprise him! Maybe you can help him overcome his fear. Maybe you will make a new friend. And if not, at least you have not been a "bristle-pig" yourself.

Martha Wagner

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